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Wheatley Launches iSport



LAST Thursday former Socceroo Robbie Wheatley launched the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation backed internet site which will give access to over 150,000 players throughout the season.

On hand to officiate at the prestigious event at Parliament House was NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Gabrielle Harrison.

The launch was an occasion for the big wigs of the Amateur body to turn out in force.

"iSport has agreed with the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation and its major associations to provide internet services," said Wheatley.

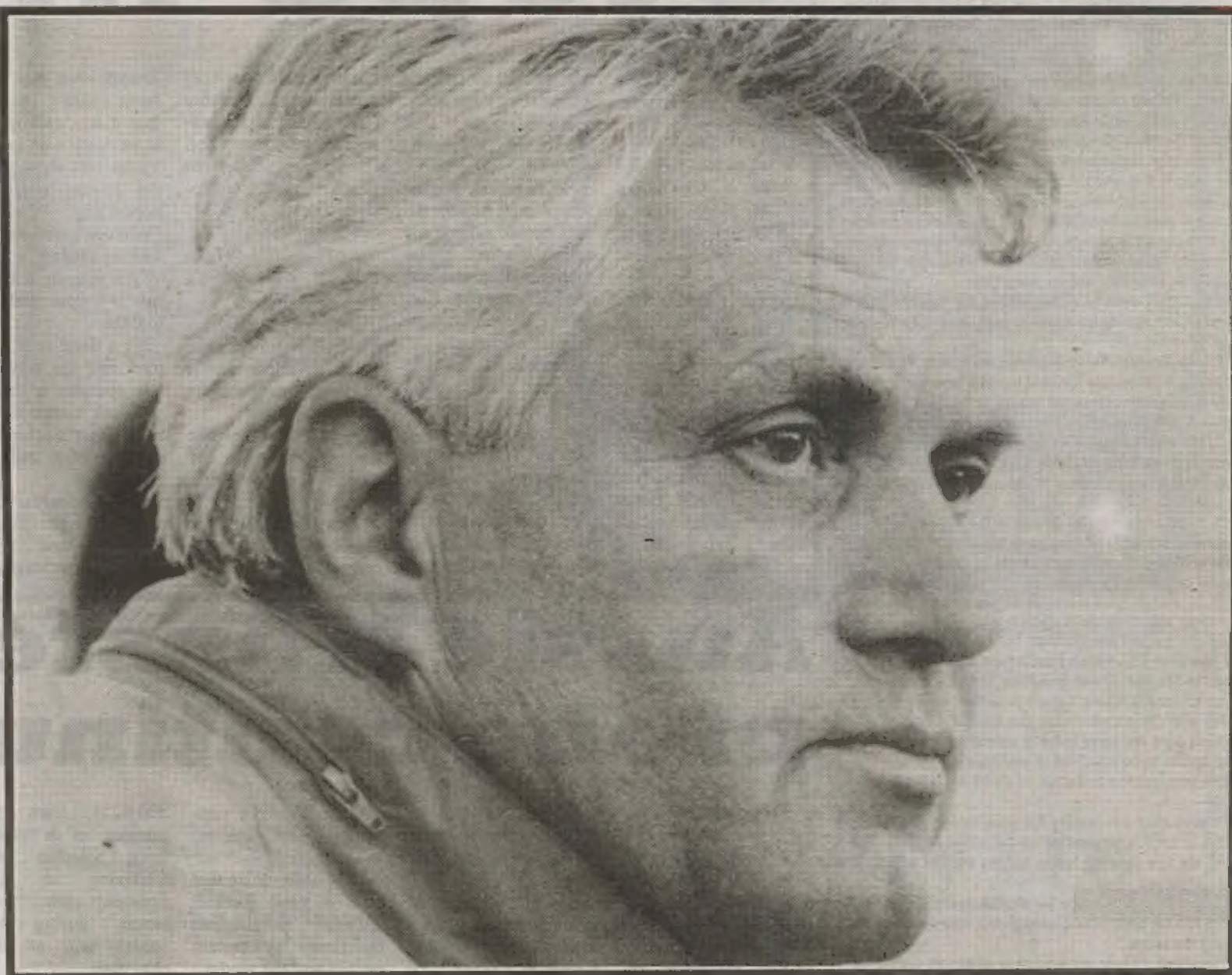
"We are a single sports information and entertainment domain with a predicted traffic base in excess of 500,000 pages per week.

"The high traffic volume will be generated by harnessing the people's passion for sport."

Also included in the list of distinguished speakers at the launch was former Socceroo captain, Paul Wade.

iSport's strategy is centred around developing soccer at its grass roots level, focussing on the needs of the 170,000+ playing membership of the NSWASF and Northern NSW Soccer Federation.

Bruce Campbell



SACKED

WHAT A WEEK for Australian soccer: Sydney Olympic star Adem Poric, widely tipped to be called up into the next Socceroo squad, was given his marching orders after fal-

ling out with the club's coaching staff.

Word has it that the volatile Poric will never play for the club again while in Perth Ernie Tapai has been released from his contract with Perth Glory.

The best was reserved for Canberra, however, where the coach, former World Cup guru Rale Rasic, and five players were all given the chop.

A tumultuous time for the domestic game, certainly

and as the economic crisis cuts deeper into Australian soccer it is likely that few of the released footballers will land another contract this season.

Meanwhile, Tapai is set to play in Asia although

Melbourne Knights are said to be interested in bringing the midfielder back to his home town.

Sydney Olympic are also reported to be interested - seeing him as a ready-made replacement for Poric.

**THE WEEKLY BIBLE OF AUSTRALIAN SOCCER
IN YOUR NEWSAGENCY - EVERY TUESDAY**

FA to become watchdog

By Mark Bradley

The Football Association are considering acting as a transfer watchdog to ensure that unscrupulous agents and confusion over foreign deals are curbed.

Discussions over the plan have only just begun at FA headquarters with no formal proposal yet drawn up to put before the Premier League, Football League and other interested bodies for consultation.

However if agreement is reached within the game, the new rules could be in force by the start of next season.

The proposal comes in the light of a renewed spotlight on transfer dealings following confusion at Crystal Palace over two deals involving foreign players and accusations levelled against an agent after a Swedish player moved to Portsmouth.

Currently, registration documents for each transfer are lodged with the FA and can be used as a point of reference if problems crop up afterwards. However, the new proposal could see both clubs having to sign up to a common agreement, stating the transfer fee involved as well as the schedule of payments, which would be overseen at Lancaster Gate.

There may even be a compulsion for the fees to be paid to any agents involved in each deal to be revealed to the FA.

FA spokesman Steve Double confirmed: "We are looking at proposals for new transfer arrangements where all parties involved would be obliged to sign up to a new form of transfer agreement."

"This would remove a lot of the grey areas that are seen in some transfer deals. Over recent years, there has been a large increase in the number of foreign transfers."

It could certainly put an end to the increasingly common scenario of confusion between the buying and selling club as to the amount of money being asked or paid for a player, as well as putting pressure

on some agents to clean up their act.

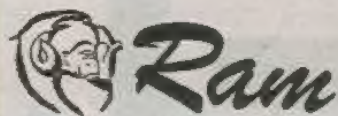
Leading agent Jon Holmes, the managing director of Marquee UK, which handles the affairs of stars such as Michael Owen and Alan Shearer, is in favour of the FA taking a more proactive role.

He said: "It is clear to me that the FIFA licensing system does not seem to have solved any problems. For agents to be involved in underhand dealings often involves the collusion of clubs or club officials."

"I have been advocating for some time that the FA, FIFA or UEFA, depending on the scope of each deal, act as a clearing house for any monies which are concerned."

"There is always scope for skulduggery if those involved are determined enough but this would cut down the scope."

He added: "There are a number of agents operating legitimately on behalf of players. The problems seem to come when they start acting for clubs and not just for players. In many ways, I would question why clubs require agents at all."



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Players Union steps in

AUSTRALIAN Soccer Players' Association chief executive Brendan Schwab is set to step in in the wake of the fallout from Rale Rasic's departure last week from the Canberra Cosmos.

Five players were fired by the struggling club with another two put on notice to lift their games.

The Cosmos fired Oscar Zamora, Elliot Zwangobani, Nik Mrdja, Geoff Howarth and Scott Conlon.

However, the club

has refused to pay out any of their contracts.

Schwab is set to take action over the club's stance.

He has said that he would seek further details before taking any action but has stressed that he will ensure that the Canberra club Cosmos honoured the players' contracts.

Schwab has pointed out that clubs are legally bound to pay out the remaining parts of players' contracts in the event of any sacking.

In the David Hill years the relationship between the Players'

Union and soccer authorities became strained and this represents the first real chance for Schwab to flex his union's collective muscle.

It is unlikely that the highly articulate Schwab will take a backward step.

The Cosmos action is a reflection on the economic situation which is strangling many Ericsson Cup clubs.

"I intend to take the matter up with the club," Schwab has said.

"I'm disappointed for the young players concerned and I'm also

disappointed that Canberra didn't believe that it was appropriate to sit down with us and try to sort this matter out in an open and honest way.

"You don't save money sacking players."

"All you do is bring forward your liability to them."

It's a fixed-term contract and the way the law operates is that if you sack somebody on a fixed-term contract, you pay the contract out."

Last season the Cosmos sacked Marko Perinovic and Tony Lemezina but was sub-

sequently forced by the Players' Union to make financial settlements.

Marko Perinovic was also later re-instated as a player.

"The squad was far too big," said Cosmos General manager Bobby Clark.

"These kids shouldn't have been employed in the first place."

"They should have been taken on on an amateur basis, as apprentices."

"Those mistakes were made by the coach concerned."

Oscar Zamora and Scott Conlon are both

Aussie transfer probe continues

From our London wire service

Crystal Palace chairman Mark Goldberg has launched a furious defence of Terry Venables following reports that the former Socceroos coach has been linked to a police investigation into the transfer of five Australian players.

Goldberg said Venables was a victim of a vicious smear campaign.

"There are people who want to make allegations and question our head coach," Goldberg was quoted in newspaper reports.

"But time after time he tends to show that there is no substance behind these allegations."

Hampshire fraud squad detectives and Interpol are investigating the transfer of five Australian players to Venables' former club Portsmouth after they were called in by the Pompey board to look into claims of 'bad

business practice'.

The transfers under investigation include the Stg95,000 (\$A247,199) move of Robbie Enes from Sydney United, Hamilton Thorp for Stg 75,000 (\$A 195,157) from Adelaide Sharks and Craig Foster from Marconi for Stg300,000 (\$A 780,630).

Meanwhile First Division club Palace have been at the centre of investigations by the Football Association into missing cash from the transfers of Chinese players Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai and Israeli defender David Amsalem.

Goldberg, who also owns a share in NSL club Northern Spirit, said all the transfers had been completed correctly.

"We have certain infrastructures in place at Palace to ensure the worldwide problem of foreign transfers is not a problem for us," Goldberg told The Independent newspaper.

"The FA have confirmed there are no irregularities."

"It is unfortunate that such a good football authority is attacked constantly by certain people and the media - but just look at his track record."

Goldberg stressed that Venables role in players' transfer fees and salaries was purely advisory.

"In his three months at Palace we have purchased 13 players for Stg5 million (\$A13.01 million), we have sold seven players for over Stg7 million (\$A18.22 million) and he has made a saving on salaries of over Stg 800,000 (\$A 2,081,680).

But yet another transfer deal involving ex-Socceroo coach Terry Venables' former club Portsmouth has drawn attention in Britain.

An English newspaper reported that a player agent had attempted to skim off Stg 125,000 (\$A

326,625) from the transfer of a player from Swedish club Elfsborg to first division club Portsmouth during Venables' time as club chairman.

The paper said the agent and talent scout involved in the deal were also involved in the recent dispute over the transfer of two Chinese players to Venables' current division one club, Crystal Palace.

The Independent newspaper said that in December 1996, Elfsborg had been expecting only Stg 75,000 (\$A 195,975) for the transfer of striker Mathias Svensson.

But they had been asked by player agent, Tom Lawrence, to accept Stg 200,000 (\$A 522,600) from Portsmouth and transfer Stg 125,000 (\$A326,625) back to his solicitors in Britain.

Elfsborg was reluctant to deal with the agent, since Svensson

had been spotted by Ted Buxton, at the time a talent scout for Portsmouth.

The paper said the Swedish club had tipped off Portsmouth about Lawrence's demands, and said unidentified Portsmouth officials had cut the agent out of the deal, and Stg75,000 was paid. The report said Lawrence and Buxton were also involved when Crystal Palace, with Venables as manager after taking over this year, had been embroiled in a recent dispute over the purchase of Chinese players Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai.

While Chinese authorities had been expecting only around Stg 935,000, (\$A 2,443,155) Palace had agreed to pay Stg1.35 million, (\$A3.53 million) the paper said.

It added that the two sides were now reconciled, with the Chinese authorities due to receive the higher amount.



Dumped Canberra Cosmos player Elliott Zwangobani

products of Canberra's ACT Academy side while Elliott Zwangobani is an Australian Indoor representative and considered a very

skilful local player. Nik Mrdja was an unheralded trialist from Perth who impressed Rasic enough to get a contract while

Howarth was one of the stars of the local league, playing with Premiers Belconnen United.

Glory maybe tenant for 30,000 WACA

By Scott Coghlan

THE Western Australian Cricket Association has bucked the recent trend in major stadiums around Australia by including a spacious grassed area in extensive redevelopment plans for the WACA Ground.

The WACA has revealed it has plans for an extensive face-lift for the ground, which include a new 11,000-seat stand on the western side.

The redevelopment is expected to cost about \$28 million, with the WACA aiming to submit a proposal for financial assistance to the State Government by Christmas.

At a time when most major stadiums in Australia, including nearby Subiaco Oval, are moving towards being full-seated, the plans for the WACA Ground include a large grassed embankment on the eastern side, in front of the scoreboard.

At some other

grounds, like the SCG with its "Hill", the grassed area was phased out partly to curb excessive crowd misbehaviour.

Alcohol would not be sold or allowed within the grassed area, to prevent drunken spectators from disturbing picnicking families.

An official has said the western stand would be fully covered and would be for general admission patrons, but the ground capacity will remain at around

30,000.

"We're talking about the same capacity, increased comfort," he said.

With the WA State Government also looking for a venue to construct a multi-purpose soccer and rugby venue, the WACA has also made an approach to provide the site, possibly at neighbouring Gloucester Park, with the Western Australian Trotting Association considering a move from its traditional home.

Channel 7 petitioned

CHANNEL 7, which has hardly covered its introduction into Australian soccer with glory, is being hounded by the Perth form of the word.

NSL club Perth Glory has started a public petition aimed at getting the soccer-shy station to acknowledge it huge and growing market.

Channel 7's Jamie Martinovich has said that if the Perth club gets its ten thousand signature

petition full then the station may re-look at the issue.

The reality is that, with crowds generally in excess of 15,000 that Perth Glory would be able to do just that at one single home game.

The NSL club remains WA's biggest summer draw card.

COVIC BLOW TO MARCONI

By Fred Legget

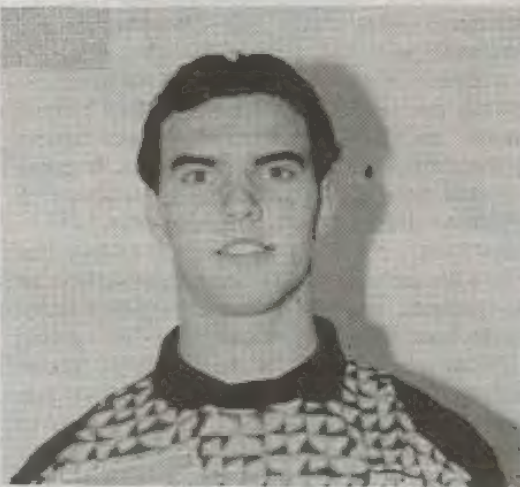
IN WHAT could turn out to be a stunning blow to the championship hopes of high flying Marconi-Fairfield, their outstanding goalkeeper Ante Covic (pictured) suffered a broken wrist at training last week and could be out for up to 6 weeks.

Stallions coach Frank Farina told *Inside Soccer*: "It happened last Tuesday at training.

"Ante stopped a shot and later complained that he was feeling some pain.

"We sent him for precautionary X-rays and it turned out he had a fracture."

Farina, however, will not press any panic buttons as he feels he has an able deputy in



David Aceski.

"While it's possible we may look around for additional goal-keeping backup, I've got every confidence in David, who is a quality goalkeeper.

"You need at least two good goalkeepers in every squad, and that's what we have here at Marconi.

"David will make his debut against Sydney Olympic (as *Inside Soccer* went to press), and I'm sure he will do well."

The 22-year-old custodian was signed in the pre-season from State League outfit Bankstown Lions has been impressing in the youth league.

Rasic: calls for aid

By Gordon Dexter

Former Socceroo coach Rale Rasic has blamed the demands of Raul Blanco's dual roles as Socceroo and Olyroo coach for recent humiliating defeats at both senior and under-23 level.

Rasic said Blanco was handed an impossible task by Soccer Australia to coach both team's because of the enormity of each position.

He said Blanco was doing the best job possible in difficult circumstances.

Rasic believed Soccer Australia needed to appoint separate national and Olympic coaches to dig the code out of the doldrums here following the latest loss to the unheralded Chinese under-23 side.

It appeared Australian soccer had reached rock bottom when the senior side crashed 1-0 to New Zealand in Brisbane last month to miss out on a place at the lucrative Confederations Cup.

But it reached new lows at Marconi Stadium on Wednesday when a lacklustre Olyroo team slumped to an embarrassing 1-0 defeat to an un-

der-strength Chinese outfit.

Since Terry Venables well-documented departure earlier this year Blanco has been in charge of the national team on a caretaker basis.

Rasic said Blanco should remain at the helm of the Olyroos with another coach to take charge of the Socceroos.

"Blanco's been put in a difficult predicament, it's an enormous task to prepare for the Olympics and to look after the national team, it's a huge overload on his shoulders," said Rasic, the sacked Canberra Cosmos coach.

Rasic revealed he would like the role of technical director of coaching for the national teams.

But he stressed he didn't want the Socceroo job.

"Doing two jobs, he's paying the price with the Olyroos, the system's humiliating the man.

"It's the psychological effects of media and officialdom demands on Blanco, he's doing it at the expense of his career."

Rasic suggested experienced Adelaide City boss Zoran Matic as the ideal

man for the Socceroo job and said whoever Soccer Australia elected, it needed to make the appointment immediately.

"We need one man for one job. Blanco is a man who should continue (with the Olyroos) without question, it's an honorable job to take the Australians to the Olympics in their home country."

Rasic said one candidate from the likes of Marconi coach Frank Farina, Sydney United boss David Mitchell and Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic should be



groomed for the top job by working alongside the national coach for a few years.

He was wary of an overseas coach being appointed after the lack of time Venables spent in Australia which culminated in the Socceroos failure to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals.

"Terry coached through the telephone, whoever's in charge needs to live in Australia," he said.

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

FAIRLY FRANK

Frank Martin isn't one to muck about.

The Sydney Olympic GM calls a spade a shovel and then gets on with the digging.

When he says that the league can't afford to bring in Auckland Kings then maybe it is time to sit up and take notice.

Too often decisions are made in our great game without refereeing to those who have to suffer the consequences.

Frank says that the clubs can't afford a NZ side.

Others say that there will be no financial burden but who is going to pay the air fares - NZ?

If Auckland Kings are going to pay for the existing 15 NSL clubs to fly then I am sure that the whole complexion of the issue changes.

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

I heard a real funny during the week - that I was at the helm of a move to unseat Wolves coach Nick T.

Crap.

I barely know anyone on the Wolves board and in fact have hardly said more than one word to any Wolves official except their marketing manager.

Sure, I've got my own thoughts on football - don't we all.

But the suggestions are so wide of the mark they are untrue.

Apparently the source goes back to one Sydney journalist and if it is proven he will be filling up my back account very quickly.

In the meantime, my best wishes go to Nick and ALL of the

coaches in Australia at whatever level.

What I didn't find funny at all was that the persons involved, including Nick T, didn't have the balls to speak to me, they wimpered around the outsides instead.

I even had a former Wolves board member ring me in what I presume was an attempt to intimidate me.

Honesty always wins out in the end and I am sure that Mr T will find out the score sooner or later.

In the meantime, I suppose I'll have to suffer the rumour mongers.

Thanks to my great friend in Adelaide who pointed out what others were whispering.

Power broker, hmnm - my status is certainly on the up and up, now what about some cash too?

Honour amongst coaches

DO YOU feel sorry for Rale Rasic or did he get what he deserved? I've got my own opinions and personally I'd rather leave the subject alone but I have a duty to my readers.

I can really say that I think it is tragic whenever anyone gets the sack - from any job.

The mixed sense of failure, bitterness and resentment hurts deeply.

Maybe it is time that coaches took stock of their own situation and formed an association.

They did it in England and it worked for a while.

For a time managers wouldn't

take over a club until the outgoing manager had been financially recompensed.

It doesn't work anymore and I doubt it would in Australia because the distance between the NSL and State League is just too big.

The temptation I too great to refuse such an offer.

Maybe that is why Tony Brennan, who was brought to the club by Rasic, grabbed his chance with both hands.

I can't blame him, maybe it's the system but whoever is at fault surely an assistant shouldn't succeed his boss in this kind of circumstance.

Ronnie is back

JUST back from the rigours of the Malaysian League is former AIS boss Ron Smith.

I caught up with 'Smudger' at the recent Olyroo games and

spent a pleasant couple of hours talking about football during which a brave and radical thought struck me.

Here is a man who has coached practically every player in the Australian set-up from Olyroos right up to senior national level.

He also knows more

about the technical side of playing than most.

So why isn't Ron involved in our national team set-up?

What a boon it would be to our chances of Olympic and World Cup success if he was drafted in.

More Olyroos

IT WAS great to see the Olyroos in action twice last week - and Channel 7 even defied the odds by televising one of the games.

We all live in hope.

Despite the obvious problems associated with playing two games in one week, so well covered elsewhere in this issue, it was still good to see the boys in action.

It was also good to sit down and speak with coach Raul Blanco.

It keeps us up with what is going on and after all the 2000 Games are really just around the corner.

In a perfect world we would have trillions to spend on the team's preparation but we all know that that is just not going to happen.

But in the meantime let's appreciate what we do have.

Raul tells me he has 15 overseas Olys to bring back - now that is really mouthwatering.

CLUB PATROL

CANBERRA Cosmos have signed Port Kembla midfielder Paul Roberts. The Indoor Soccer Australian international had trials at Wollongong in pre-season and at one stage looked to be on the verge of signing with the NSW South Coast side.

NORTHERN Spirit's English import Ian Crook is still on the long term injured list and is unlikely to play much before Christmas.

MELBOURNE Knights have signed former Wolves midfielder Michael Reda - who will link with another former Brandon Park favourite, Sonny Sevin, at Knights Park.

EX Sydney United striker David Zdrilic is now playing at German second division side SSV Ulm.

FORMER Newcastle Breakers star defender Darren Stewart arrived back in Australia last week after another successful season in Malaysia.

WOLLONGONG Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has just signed a two-year extension to his contract - ending speculation which was begun in the Sydney Sunday Telegraph that he was to be sacked.

ADAM Ciantar is scheduled for knee reconstruction surgery this week and it looks likely that the Sydney Olympic star is out for the season.

TOMMY Sermanni will arrive back in Australia on January 6 after fulfilling his J League contract as Assistant Coach at Hiroshima. The former Sydney Olympic and Australian Women's coach looks almost certain to join the Canberra Cosmos coaching staff.

Midfield Problems

Can you, or one of your readers, please explain how Noel Spencer at the Wollongong Wolves can be selected in the Olyroos squad for Australia (and be on standby for the games against China), and yet cannot even make the substitutes bench for the Wolves?

You have commented (on Sunday Soccer) that the Wolves seem to have a problem in midfield, where strikers Brooks and Chipperfield are currently being played in front of Spencer and Dimoski.

The last we saw of Noel Spencer was the Northern Spirit game when he came on as a substitute, and was to some extent responsible for the late flurry of Wolves attacks in that game.

The Wolves midfield always looks more balanced when he is on the field.

Memo to other NSL coaches - there is a talented midfielder currently going to waste at Brandon Park.

And that is not just my opinion - ask Raul Blanco.

Your WRITE

YOU CAN EMAIL us at insidesoccer@hotmail.com. Or fax at (02) 4285 7481.

Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

Neil Johnston
Wollongong

Sydney Views

I have recently arrived from Melbourne for a 6 month working stint.

This gives me a chance to experience "Sydney Soccer".

My first game was the Northern Spirit v Melbourne Knights (otherwise known as "Melbourne Branch"; Sydney United is "Sydney Branch").

I saw the future of Australian national league soccer here.

A big crowd, a beautiful, even if not purpose built, ground, a great sound system for the music and the amplification of the crowd noise, and a MULTICULTURAL crowd, not a MAINSTREAM crowd.

Plus great lighting (although it doesn't

look good on TV), and fireworks.

This without even mentioning what a great game it was.

In contrast, over the following two weeks I ventured to Broken Hill, sorry it wasn't that far, it was only as far as Edensor Park and Bossley Park.

What's the story with these grounds in regards to how far they are from anywhere central, and even more absurdly, there close proximity to each other?

No wonder David Hill wanted to move one of them to Parramatta. These clubs are going nowhere. The Marconi ground looks good on TV but in reality the lighting in the corners of the western grandstand is abysmal, it has a small capacity. The parking is atrocious and the

crowd is so boring.

Just a bunch of old men and young kids.

Nice looking social club though.....a pity we couldn't get in.

As for Sydney United, there was more atmosphere but who is going to watch a Croatian club other than Croats?

I honestly believe that the only mono-ethnic or clique club (a less diplomatic way of saying "niche club", David Hill's terminology) that maybe able to survive in the long term is South Melbourne, simply due to substantial crowds plus the location and quality of their oval.

I include Carlton in this group of eventual failures because of the affiliation with the Australian Rules football club. It deters thousands from attending and always will.

Aussie Rules allegiances in Victoria, re-

member there are 10 teams still in Melbourne and Geelong, transgress across the whole social spectrum.

I also visited grounds that were being used in the, what will certainly be known in future as, the pre-David Hill days such as Lambert Park, Pratten Park.

Apia actually won a National League Pennant playing at that!!!

As for Pratten Park, I always wanted to visualise where Tony Pezzano was on that fateful day in the "Golden Eighties" when he was set upon by crazy supporters.

What a contrast with the day I was there. A peaceful game of local cricket played on a beautiful SUBURBAN ground. The relative silence was deafening.

There's more in the tank, including expanding on some issues I have touched on. I'll save it for another time, perhaps after I have seen some more games.

Sam Jonis
(Ed - don't bother, you've had your chance)

Soccer's Olympic funding grows

By Steve Connolly

Most of Australia's Olympic sports will suffer federal government funding cuts in the build up to the 2000 Sydney Games.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) reduced funding to 24 of the 32 Olympic sports over the next two financial years following a performance review by the Australian Institute of Sport in conjunction with individual sports and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

The ASC will allocate \$39.5 million in 1998-99 and \$38.2 million in 1999-2000 from the Olympic Athlete Program (OAP) and the governments sports assistance scheme.

This compares with \$39.6 million in 1997-98.

Only baseball, gymnastics, handball, both men's and women's soccer, sailing, softball, water polo and trampolining will enjoy an increase over 1998-99 and 1999-2000 from 1997-98 funding levels.

Two of those sports - hand-

ball and gymnastics - are still well down on the funds received when the OAP was launched in 1994-95.

Wrestling and fencing suffered the biggest cuts.

Wrestling's funds will fall from \$520,000 in 1997-98 to \$148,000 in 1999-2000.

Fencing has also been virtually written off for the Olympics, with its allocation dropping from \$137,000 to \$64,360.

Rowing and swimming remain Australia's top two government-funded sports, although both incur a slight decrease.

Rowing will receive \$3.976 million this financial year - a \$365,000 drop, while swimming, considered Australia's strongest sport for 2000, was allocated \$3.84 million for 1998-99 and 1999-2000, down from \$3.85 million in 1997-98.

The funding criteria were based on the chances of winning medals in Sydney, with the AOC aiming for 60 medals, including 20 gold.

Federal Sports Minister Jackie Kelly said the per-

formances of all teams and athletes would be monitored over the next two years to ensure the most effective use of the funding.

"For this reason, funding for 1999-2000 could be adjusted up or down, depending on performance on major international events in 1999," she said.

ASC executive director Jim Ferguson said several factors influenced a sports funding allocation, and he indicated some cuts could be due to a reduction in the number of events in the build up to the Olympics and in the number of athletes.

Water polo has had a major boost, jumping from \$1.53 million in 1997-98 to \$2.01 million in 1999-2000 due to the inclusion of women's water polo in the Olympic programme.

Shooting will drop from \$1.44 million in 1997-98 to \$988,000 in the year leading up to the Olympics.

AIS chief John Boulton said funding for some shooting disciplines was going down because of limited chances for Olympic success and wrestling had "all but disappeared" from the AIS

programme.

Boulton said Australian sport was on a par with most of its international rivals in terms of government funding.

But he said with the OAP to end in 2000, Australia would have to look at other means of sports funding, pointing to Britain where sport is to benefit from money from a national lottery.

The Paralympics will receive an increase in funds with \$1.7 million in 1998-99 and \$1.6 million 1999-2000.

The Australian Paralympic Committee had threatened legal action over an initial offer of \$1 million.

Three-year allocations for top five funded sports: Rowing: \$4.34 million in 1997-98, \$3.98m in 98-99, \$3.86m in 99-2000.

Swimming: \$3.85m in 97-98, \$3.84m in 98-99, \$3.84m in 99-2000.

Cycling: \$3.19m in 97-98, \$3.2m in 98-99, \$3.18m in 99-2000.

Athletics: \$2.89m in 97-98, \$2.97m in 98-99, \$2.87m in 99-2000.

Water polo: \$1.53m in 97-98, \$1.96m in 99-99, \$2.01m in 99-2000.

Home based player plan for Confeds Cup

International sides taking part in FIFA's Confederation Cup should only be able to select home-based players, UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner has suggested.

Aigner, writing in the November issue of the monthly UEFA newsletter UEFA Flash, says that the cup - a competition for the champions of FIFA's various confederations -- has caused real problems for Europe as most of the players who appear in the global tournament play for European clubs.

"Between the advantages for the other confederations and the problems for UEFA (there should be a) compromise...until the situation can be examined in depth," he said.

"The Confederations Cup could, for example, be played with national teams composed of players from clubs in their own country."

"The attraction would not be the same, but other positive aspects would emerge, such as the discovery of new talent and enhancement of domestic football in the participating countries."

That way, according to Aigner's logic, just one or at the most two countries in Europe would be affected by the demands of the competition, and they could then tailor their league programmes accordingly.

As it stands, with many of the top South American, African and even Asian players now playing in Europe, many European clubs in different countries are expected to lose their top players during the middle of the domestic European season.

The next edition of the competition, originally due to be held in Mexico in January, has now been postponed until next northern summer because World Champion France refused to take part as its top clubs would lose too many players.

But France was aghast when the new dates were announced last week as July 28 to August 8 as July 28 is the date scheduled for the start of its 1999-2000 season.

Teams committed to taking part next summer are Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Egypt, Brazil, New Zealand and the United States. France is yet to confirm.

Blades

Blades

Blades

Blades



The Prince brings Carlton cash

By Paul Millar

CARLTON is set to defy the prophets of doom with a large boost to its bank balance from overseas soccer transfers.

Vince Grella, who is on loan to Serie A side Empoli has already made his debut - from the bench - against Italian giant Juventus while goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis is on his way to fallen English giant Wolverhampton Wanderers.

There has been plenty of speculation about the long-term future of Carlton with crowds below expectations and admissions of financial losses last season.

Grella, an Olyroo, is on loan to Empoli and Carlton picks up a fee every game he plays in the Italian first division.

The club will also receive a huge bonus for any ongoing transfer fee.

"It's a structured deal, the more he plays the more we get," Carlton general manager Lou Sticca said.

While Grella is starting to make his mark in Italy, Anastasiadis could be the answer to Wolves goalkeeping woes in the first division.

He trial last week with the Midlands club after being recommended by former South Melbourne defender Kevin Muscat



Vinnie Grella: The 'Prince' is now playing with Serie A side Empoli

who is playing for the Wolves.

"They are desperate for a goalkeeper so it's a real window of opportunity for the lad," Sticca said.

Carlton had no ready-made support base when it joined the national league, but the club has aligned itself with a series of feeder clubs and organisations across Victoria to establish a player base.

"Any transfers will certainly swell the coffers but we'll need to replenish the stocks," Sticca said.

Anchors of the shore of reality

By Bryan Cokely

It has been a hectic November for young Daniel Watkins.

From being an unknown apprentice at Sydney glamour club Northern Spirit to supersub and now full debutant against 1997 champions Brisbane Strikers - all at the young age of 18.

The spark for this swift rise to uncomfortable prominence was the flash of inspiration and 'lucky

bounce' to provide a sensational late goal and 3 points for 14,000 supplicants against the Melbourne Knights.

Recent steady performances as substitute finally warranted his inclusion on Friday night against the Brisbane Strikers.

Coach Graham Arnold had seen enough and decided that Watkins was ready.

Daniel, the middle of three athletic sons of Phil and Margaret,

is a humble and quietly spoken local boy who admitted to being concerned at the prospect of a full debut in front of an expectant 15000 crowd.

That the thought of such demand did not bother him as such rather the thought of playing out of position wide on the right of midfield in an unfamiliar role speaks volumes for the temperament of one of his limited experience.

"The crowd really does not bother me, in

fact I get a buzz out of that many people supporting me," he said.

It certainly is a far cry from the small band of hopeful, proud or disaffected parents that followed the military-like N.S.W. I.T.C. of which Watkins was an over talented member.

Father Phil, was pleased at the Northern Spirit opportunity as he felt that Daniel had gone as far as he could a long time before the end of last season.

Phil Watkins had

never had an interest in soccer until eldest son Lucas showed promise.

Watkins snr. got behind his sons and passed the level 2 coaching course in order to understand the game and to be able to make informed decisions on their progress.

"Lucas had a lot of talent but was struck down early with a knee injury," he said.

"Daniel has always had the best attitude and has been focused since a young age."

The youngest brother Dallas is a superb athlete who also has potential and is hopeful of progressing from Gladesville Hornsby into the Spirit colts next year.

It is this family support and quiet self assurance which underpins Daniel's on field rise.

"I am very competitive, I want to do things at 100% effort, second best is not good enough," he said - a philosophy to please any coach.

Though there is a small seam of self doubt when he speaks of wanting to "be seen for what I am,

not my mistakes or lucky breaks, really I was a bit lucky for that goal, it could have been: who is that idiot? The bounce helped me out a lot."

A harsh assessment indeed for someone who has consciously worked on running with the ball dribbling and taking players on so adeptly proved with that 50 metre surge and goal.

This work was inspired by talk that Les Scheinflug was unhappy with this aspect of his game.

"Les never told me directly, but I heard through the grapevine that he never selected me for the young Socceroos because he thought this part of my game was weak," says Watkins.

At least running was not a problem, Watkins has a second love for athletics particularly the 100, 200 and 400 metre sprints.

Bozza may stay at Villa

By Trevor Marshall in London

Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich will meet with Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis in an attempt to clarify his future as speculation mounts over whether he'll leave the soccer club.

The Bosnich picture became clouded again when his manager Phil Smyth said the Socceroo had not ruled out staying at Villa, current leader of the English Premier League.

He has been linked with several major clubs including Manchester United, Liverpool and Italian outfit AS Roma, while Villa manager John Gregory has even said he is resigned to losing Bosnich at the end of the season.

Smyth said Bosnich was growing weary of rampant speculation about his future, and as a result had acted to bring forward a resolution.

"The press speculation has got to such an extent

that he'll be sitting down with the chairman this week to discuss his future," Smyth told *Inside Soccer*.

"Some of the speculation is pretty sad. People have been making stories where there's no story. Ideally he'd like to sort it all out after Christmas."

Bosnich comes off contract at the end of the season and will become a free agent under the benchmark Bosman ruling on player transfers.

It has been rumoured Bosnich has set a pricetag on himself of around Stg12 million (\$A31 million) over four years - something Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson immediately rejected as too high.

Bosnich has long been thought keen to move to a club more successful than Villa and with greater prospects for European competition, but Smyth indicated the Birmingham side's hot form this year may change his mind.



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His powerful 84 kilogram frame ideally suited to these events.

Though Daniel admits that six months ago athletic fitness was not his strong point as he lugged around a slightly bloated body in an end of season youth match for the ITC.

"I had lost a lot of fitness while on a big brother scholarship at Nottingham Forrest," he says.

"Training had wound down towards the end of their season and I was finding it easy but not playing games was a problem and I lost a lot of form and fitness."

So it was a blessing in disguise to realise for him to learn how quickly you can lose the edge and the need to work at the game all the time.

And so on Friday night the Brisbane Strikers came to North Sydney Oval.

They survived an opening onslaught from hype man Tim Bailey only to be hit with a second wave from the Spirit attack.

Watkins was integral in the game plan.

His diagonal runs towards the penalty

spot from a wide right position initially bemused man marking left back Nick Meredith.

"Yes, I was surprised at Meredith in the opening stages" Watkins said.

"He seemed to be following me around."

This allowed Luke Casserley all the space he needed to launch a wave of swirling, dipping crosses in league

defence and started playing a more zonal game to combat the mobile Spirit attack.

"You could tell Kosmina had changed things in terms of passing players on and it became more difficult to find space in the second half," Watkins said.

Tiring physically, player-coach Arnold replaced Watkins with himself.

Friday with a more varied, dynamic approach to attack.

His commitment to succeed is such that he is aware that success will not come overnight and that there is a trail of players who have had similar advantages and ended up adrift in the wreckage of their own careers.

Danny Crainie, former South Melbourne and Wollongong star once scored on his debut for Celtic v Rangers with his first touch in front of 60,000 at Parkhead and never reached 20 games for the Bhoys.

The coming season will test the youngster's patience and commitment.

His generous and honest nature is not in doubt.

Watkins would rather have talked about the great unsung debut of another spirit youngster Matthew Langdon rather than talk about himself.

One senses that Watkins is genuine in his thoughts and actions and this is one youngster that is firmly anchored to the shore of reality

"You could tell Kosmina had changed things in terms of passing players on"

with the stiff southerly breeze.

It was during one such raid that Watkins drifted to the left edge of the box and picked a loose ball from a Casserley cross then fed Marusic who turned and shot sweetly for the Spirit's only goal.

"Yes, I was pleased with my game in the first half, but I would have liked to get the line a bit more and get in a few more crosses," he said.

So it was a fine debut up until half time but predictably John Kosmina had words to his

A neat move as Arnold has recognised the resemblance to himself in Watkins play.

While disappointed to have faded, Watkins was pleased with aspects of his play and is hopeful that he may be retained for next week's derby versus Sydney United.

A team that the Spirit players respect as a team willing to work for each other.

Watkins will be hoping to once again combine the intelligent industry and combative spirit he showed on

Arnie looking to his future on the bench

By Ted Simmons

Northern Spirit player-coach Graham Arnold reversed his role of the past seven weeks to bench himself for the match against Brisbane Strikers at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

Apprentice Daniel Watkins was named in the starting line-up while former Socceroo forward Arnold was content to name himself in reserve.

Watkins, who has been regularly used as a substitute, was in the starting line-up earlier in the season against Carlton and earned Arnold's praise.

"I think the coaching role is more important at this stage and I've found it difficult to make decisions on players while on the field," Arnold said.

"In nearly every game this season, I've come off in the last 15



minutes when not many decisions have to be made.

"Most of the important moves have to be decided in the first 65 to 70 minutes and they're better made from the bench."

Arnold said he was still fit enough to play for about 70 minutes but felt he had lost the first few metres of anticipation needed by a

striker.

He successfully played sweeper in a trial match last Sunday between the first team and reserves and may consider a midfield role.

But his major interest in the trial match was the performance of midfielder Gabriel Mendez who is slowly recovering from a long injury layoff.

"In the past six months, he's had 75 minutes against a reserve team and I want to see him play youth league for six weeks before I bring him back," Arnold said.

"Unless his form is unbelievable, I won't think of using him until the middle of December to avoid jeopardising his knee again."

Arnold was disappointed that striker Scott Ollerenshaw had decided to terminate his contract because of an slow healing injured ankle.

Ollerenshaw, who bagged a heap of goals in a successful Malaysian career, handed back his contract and will try to rehabilitate his ankle.

"It's very disappointing for the club because we expected so many good things from him," said Arnold.

Falcons boss says "No Surrender"

By Paul Millar

FORMER Glasgow Rangers defender Stuart Munro has more silverware than a pawnbroker within a half-volley of a casino, but says there's still room for more trophies in his cabinet.

He crossed the world to play with his former team-mate Dave Mitchell at unfashionable Sydney United and this season turned to coaching at Ericsson Cup outpost Gippsland.

Gippsland is a world away from soccer-crazy Glasgow and a distance away from any club in Australia but Munro has instilled a philosophy in the Falcons this year that was drilled into him at Ibrox Park.

The defender played over 200 games for Rangers, was in four championship sides and four league cup winning sides between 1984 and 1991.

It was a time when Rangers were turning the tables on Old Firm rivals Celtic and Munro played in three consecutive championship sides - the start of a nine in a row run.

Munro said at Rangers you were expected to win, second best was never good enough, the players were totally prepared physically but were also mentally tough.

"It was always there, you had to win but it was a challenge every week, you could not slip," he told *Inside Soccer*.

"I think sometimes that's one of the problems with Australian soccer."

"Fitness does not let the players down, it's the mental attitude and that's what let us down when we lost to Perth."

"You need that mental toughness, you must go

out thinking you are not going to get beat."

If any player had the credentials to become a coach it's Stuart Munro.

At Rangers he witnessed the fuming do-or-die coaching philosophy of former Scottish international Graeme Souness.

His assistant at the time was Walter Smith, who then went on to take charge and lead Rangers to further glory.

It was a good-guy, bad-guy partnership between Smith and Souness with Munro storing the experience for his own career in coaching.

Souness was not long retired as a player and smashed cups and berated players in the change-rooms when things went wrong, then Smith would come in and calmly ask the players where it had gone wrong.

The attitude of both rubbed off on Munro and a spell at Blackburn Rovers under Kenny Dalglish gave him another outlook on coaching styles.

"Walter Smith was the best, Souness was explosive, the ultimate winner, could not stand losing."

"He'd break things, whereas Walter was a philosopher, he did things differently, he'd speak quietly to players," Munro said.

"Smith earned your respect and got a lot out of you."

The tough Scot has a young and inexperienced side at Gippsland and prefers the encouragement approach of Smith, but you get the feeling he'd be prepared to adopt the full-blooded approach of Souness if the response was poor.

"I'm not here to rule by fear, I'm not a shouter or a bawler, I want them to feel good about them-

selves and so far it's worked for most of the time," he said.

He joined the Falcons because he wanted to learn about coaching from a grass roots level, the marketing, the promotions and the youth policy.

"I'm here to learn," admits Munro.

Until the loss to league leader Perth that learning curve was on an upward trend with the Falcons in the top half of the table and surprising their more fancied opponents.

The Latrobe Valley side however lacks a quality goalscorer and Munro's club does not have the money to buy a big name.

Being competitive is not enough for Munro, he needs to win and his players now believe they are winners, but not all the time.

Because they are such a young side they tend to lose their way.

"They have to realise that at this level you can't afford to have good and

bad games, it's got to be consistent, you have to have the right attitude."

"Sometimes it does not come down to just ability."

He said against Perth his team had the chance to express itself, take it to the league leaders but instead some players were prepared to be second best.

That's not on for Munro.

"I miss playing and I just want to win so badly, I want this team to be winners ... I genuinely think we can get up and be contenders at the end of the season."

If they're not, it won't be Munro's fault.

The Rangers fans sing "no surrender", Munro's team won't.

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Rasic leaves Canberra, is it the END OF AN ICON

By Paul Millar

Canberra coach Rale Rasic asked for patience to develop his young side, but was out of a job last Monday, seven rounds and seven losses into the national soccer league season.

The club, which has had 10 consecutive losses, said it was an amicable resignation but a hurt Rasic said he quit before being pushed.

"You can call it sacked, whatever you want, they say it is an

Canberra's Cosmos NSL Coaches:

Mike Lyons

96/97 Played 33 Won Position: 10th
97/98 Played Won Position: Last

Branko Culina

97/98 Played 20 Won 3 Position: Last
Godon Hunter & Walter Valeri (c/t)
97/98 Played 1 Won 0 Position: Last

Rale Rasic

97/98 Played 5 Won 0 Position: Last
98/99 Played 7 Won 0 Position: Last

Tony Brennan (caretaker)

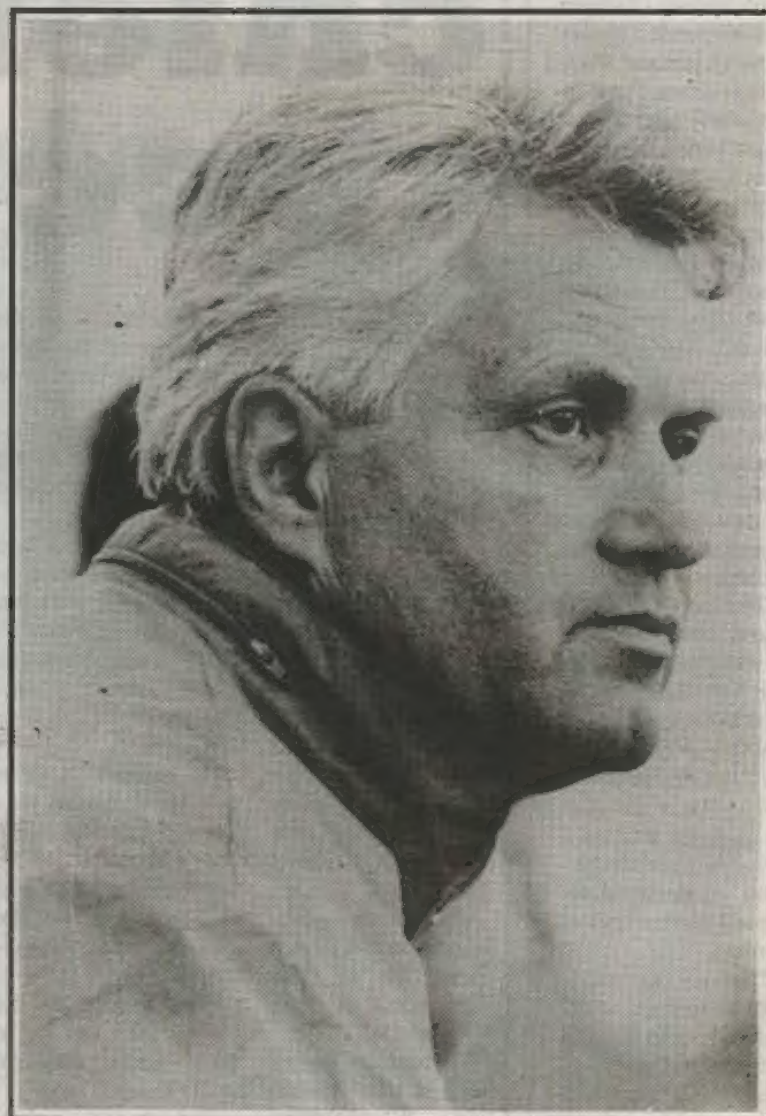
98/99 Played 1 Won Position: Last

fate and there appeared to be a mini revolt by the older players at the club.

Canberra general manager Bobby Clark denied Rasic had been axed, but said he had lost the support of the players and was struggling to communicate with the team.

"And we are dead, motherless last," he added.

Clark said Rasic was an icon in Australian soccer, had been given a free hand in team selection, went to England to buy players but



amicable agreement, Rasic said.

but I was told if I did He persevered with not resign then I promising youngsters but would be sacked," realised he was tempting

came back with none and did not produce the results.

"He went for a young squad, he chose to go down that line and we have gone through two years of losing," Clark said. He said it was humiliating for the coach while Rasic said it was the same old story. "I'm not embarrassed, but there are no ethics in the coaching profession in Australia, coaches are treated like dirt and are always made the scapegoat," Rasic said.

"Some of the players at the club have been dishonest, they didn't like me giving the chance to the youngsters as they felt threatened," he said.

Rasic, who steered the Socceroos to their only World Cup final appearance in 1974, has coached more clubs in Australia than anybody else - Canberra was his seventh national league club.

He took over from Branko Culina in March and the Cosmos drew the first two

matches under his control then had a run of 10 losses, including seven games this season.

"I don't know whether his coaching days at this level are over, he is a national icon in soccer and is very good with children," Clark said.

Rasic's assistant Tony Brennan will take over in the short term with Tommy Sermanni, Eddie Thomson's assistant at Hiroshima, tipped as a possible replacement.

TONY BRENNAN

THE new Cosmos coach, albeit in a caretaker role, finds himself in the hot seat with no formal coaching training or accreditation. Rated as just an average NSL player in his days with Brisbane, Canberra City, Blacktown and Monaro, Brennan was a speedy forward.

There is a section of local opinion in Canberra that Brennan might well find himself in the hot seat on a permanent basis because of the club's financial plight. "That would be a tragedy," one local identity told *Inside Soccer*. "His only previous coaching role was at Monaro when his team finished rock bottom with barely a point in a very poor ACT Premier League."

Other local coaches with outstanding formal qualifications have been overlooked including ACT Representative coach Ian Heywood who has a Level 3 and former English pro Stevie Bryant.



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Olympic stands Poric down

National soccer league club Sydney Olympic has suspended former English premier league player Adem Poric indefinitely after discussions between head coach

Branko Culina and the club management. Culina said Poric has been stood down and given time to work out some 'personal' issues.

Poric had played in England with Sheffield Wednesday and Millwall prior to coming back to Australia this season where he immediately linked up with Culina Olympic.

The suspension of Poric, who played for St George under Olympic technical director Frank Arok prior to going overseas, is for an indefinite period.

The player has gone to his home state of Queensland with the club remaining silent on any further background.

"Sydney Olympic will be working with Adem to help sort out his personal problems," said coach Culina.

lems," said coach Culina in an official club communique.

However, sources close to the club claim that Poric is unlikely to return to Hursstone Park.

"Poric has really stretched relationships at the club," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"He is reported to be a loud mouth who just can't get on with his team-mates nor the coaching staff.

"He has called some of the staff incompetent and continually runs down his fellow players.

"Despite his undisputed talents Adem Poric is a handful."

In a recent league match the midfielder was dragged at half time, leading to a fresh outburst.

And it seems that Brisbane Strikers may well come in for the wayward star.

Strikers coach John Kosmina is said to have a liking for the player, despite his reputation as a trouble-maker.

Kosmina is a well-known disciplinarian and it is said that he is relishing whipping Poric into shape.

A transfer is expected within days.

New Games chief is a soccer nut

By Paul Millar

When Sam Coffa kicked a soccer ball around the dusty, cobbled streets of a Sicilian village, like every youngster he dreamed of becoming a powerhouse in international sport.

He didn't have the talent or physique to make the grade in soccer but his dream came true last week when he was appointed the president of Australia's Commonwealth Games Association.

"Everybody is entitled to have a dream come true in their lifetime and this is it for me," Coffa said.

The quietly-spoken boss of the Australian Weightlifting

Federation will be the frontman of the association for the next four years, promising to replace the in-your-face style of Arthur Tunstall with diplomacy.

"When people talk about the Commonwealth Games they talk about Arthur Tunstall, but that's not me, it's going to be different," Coffa told *Inside Soccer*.

He refused to criticise Tunstall other than calling him "a mean old bastard" and "a Scrooge for keeping a cast-iron grip on the associations purse-strings.

"That's part of the reason why we are in such good financial shape today."

The racist jokes,

which came back to haunt Tunstall, won't be on the Coffa agenda.

He suffered plenty of taunts after migrating from the Mafia heartland.

Coffa came to Australia as a 15-year-old following his father who moved here a year earlier to create a life for his family.

A year later the tiny Sicilian had set up shop with his dad and they were making surgical footwear.

He wanted to play soccer, but there was little interest in AFL-mad Melbourne.

He'd stopped growing as an eleven-year-old, he couldn't hope to match muscle-bound Aussie Rules players and had to find

another sport.

"I was too much of a coward to box and didn't want to hit people, so it was either wrestling or weightlifting," Coffa said.

He chose lifting and it proved the right decision as he became Victorian champion and went on to represent Australia in the then Empire and Commonwealth Games, placing fifth in Perth in 1964.

He also contested the Olympics and then moved into coaching.

"I wanted to be in the elite in whatever I did in sport," he said.

He managed it at the 1970 Commonwealth Games with the five lifters he coached bringing home four gold medals from

Edinburgh - arguably Australia's best ever effort.

Coffa has suffered for his sport, every time an Australian lifter tests positive to drug use he reels from a body blow which stings more than any dig he would have received in the boxing ring.

Three of Australia's best have tested positive this year, it's a hat-trick he would have less heartache conceding in his first sport, soccer.

But like Tunstall he was always front and centre to reply to any allegations no matter how damaging.

He said he would avoid confrontation, he aims to spruce up the image of the Common-

wealth Games and will lead the charge to have them held in Melbourne in 2006.

A successful bid could lead to a headquarters shift from Sydney to Melbourne.

"Everything I've ever achieved in life has been through sport and I want to continue achieving, you have to make things happen," he said.

"Australians love to win. That's why they love the Commonwealth Games so much and that's one reason they remain so popular. We don't aim to be a poor relation to the Olympics, we have to become more aggressive in our approach - we have to sell our brand and not take a backward step."

NO CARTWHEELS AT MARCONI.....YET

By Fred Leggett

WITH ONE quarter of the season gone, Marconi coach Frank Farina could be forgiven for doing cartwheels every time he looks at the league table, but the former Socceroo is far too experienced to get carried away at this early stage.

"Yes, I'm very happy with the way things have gone so far this season," he says, "but there is still a long way to go.

"We may be sitting second in the league at the moment, but we had the bye last weekend and that gave the other clubs the opportunity to catch up to us."

While Frank may be wise not to raise the expectations of the Bossley Park faithful too much so soon after the season kick off, in recent weeks the team from south western Sydney have looked every inch possible championship contenders.

After an inauspicious start to the season, Marconi's 'defining moment' occurred in the second half of the fourth round fixture against current champions, South Melbourne.

With the home side two nil down at halftime, not many in the rain affected crowd that night thought that the Stallions were capable of turning the game around, but after a dressing room



blast from Farina, Marconi ran out winners by five goals to three, in one of the most entertaining and controversial games ever played in the Ericsson Cup.

Said Farina: "I guess that match could be considered our turning point, and we did play exceptionally well in that second half.

"We followed that game up with a good away performance against Gippsland, and got another good result the following week when we beat Adelaide Sharks 4-0 at home.

"But probably the most satisfying result was our recent 2-1 victory at Newcastle.

"It's not easy coming back from 1-0 down and getting a result

against a side who dropped behind the ball and made it very difficult for us.

"It was the sort of game that everybody tells you that you are going to win, but sometimes the opposition haven't been let in on the script.

"I was very, very pleased to take the three points from Newcastle."

Farina was not the only one in the Marconi camp pleased with the Newcastle result, as it also signalled striker Sean Babic's first goal of the season.

Babic, surprisingly for many, was left out of the side in the early games, but has impressed Farina with his contribution since being reinstated.

Said Farina: "All strikers go through a stage where goals are hard to come by, but Sean scored against Newcastle

and also hit the post.

"He's running hard and getting into good positions, and it shouldn't be forgotten that he was involved in three of the four goals against Adelaide Sharks."

Marconi's potent strike force of Babic, Awaritefe and Trajanovski will no doubt figure regularly on the scoring lists in the remaining matches, and with Pan Keun Kim revelling in his new role of right wing back, and the formidable central defensive partnership of Mark Babic and Dominic Longo blocking the way of any would be attackers, Frank Farina may yet be doing cartwheels, come Grand Final day.

Schwarzer's El Tel and all

By
Trevor Marshallsea

Australian soccer star Mark Schwarzer has revealed how his career was almost destroyed before it really took off when he crashed his car after a night of drinking.

In a new book, Schwarzer said he wrote off his car after six months with his first European club, Germany's Dynamo Dresden, in October 1992 when he was 22.

"One night, I went out, had a few drinks and then drove home," said Schwarzer, now enjoying the English premier league with Middlesbrough.

"I don't know why I did it but it's something I regret. I fell asleep at the wheel and smashed up my car. I wrote it off."

"Thank God, nobody was injured but I ended up in court."

"I was fined and suspended from driving for a

year."

Dynamo Dresden had kicked him out immediately, which came as a blow as he had been improving under a new manager, Schwarzer said.

"Things were starting to look up after what had been a difficult start and then I went and did something really stupid like that," he said.

The former Marconi 'keeper's exit from Dresden led to his signing with another German club.

Kaiserslautern, which in turn sold him to English lower division side Bradford, from where he joined Middlesbrough.

And controversy over former Australian coach Terry Venables' role in the transfer of Socceroo players to England has been further fueled in Schwarzer's new book.

Schwarzer takes a turn in attack in his diary of the 1997-98 English season, revealing the joy at

Middlesbrough's return to the premier league, but also his anger at missing out on Venables' top squad for Australia's failed World Cup campaign.

Schwarzer, who recently signed a new six-and-a-half year contract with 'Boro, rounds on others including Soccer Australia - described as "a Mickey Mouse organisation" - but he has some kind words for his often maligned teammate Paul Gascoigne.

In his book *Mark My Words*, which is not yet available in Australia, Schwarzer said he was bitterly disappointed at being left out of the Socceroo's World Cup campaign while Zeljko Kalac was reserve behind Mark Bosnich.

He blames a backlash from Venables over his decision to play for 'Boro instead of in a Socceroo friendly in the 1996-97 season, which he said

contrasted to Bosnich being allowed to miss a friendly when playing for Aston Villa in a UEFA Cup match against Bordeaux.

Schwarzer also questioned Venables' behaviour when he had the twin roles as Australia coach and president of first division side Portsmouth, where he bought a handful of Socceroo's.

Schwarzer said it was "a bit strange" that Eddie Thomson, Australia's coach when Schwarzer made his international debut, had been the subject of a lengthy inquiry over his part in the transfer of Socceroo's under his care, while Venables was quickly cleared over the Portsmouth connection.

"Quite a few (players) seem to have joined Portsmouth, funnily enough," he said. "... when they held an inquiry into Terry Venables about all these

players he has brought over to Portsmouth, it only took two days and he was cleared."

"It seems a bit of a conflict of interests to me."

Around August 1997, four months before Australia crashed out to Iran in Melbourne, Schwarzer wrote: "The biggest difference he (Venables) has made is to our profile."

"He's come in at a very fortunate time because we have so many good players playing in different countries."

"Australian players are getting better all the time and I would fancy our chances of getting to the World Cup whoever the manager was."

At the time of Venables' last game with the Socceroo's, the then injured Schwarzer writes: "I wouldn't want to play because I've had nothing but bad experiences with him and I'm glad he's going hopefully it will mean a shake-up



with the national set-up over in Australia."

Referring to other scheduling clashes which have led to friction between Soccer Australia and Leeds United over Harry Kewell, Schwarzer says: "The timing of the Australian matches is a joke."

"They know the dates of all the Premier League games and when the international breaks are, but they arrange their games at completely different times so players have to miss league games."

He said the rumoured

bid by Australia to host the 2010 World Cup would have his support, but added: "The only question is whether the football authorities could cope with it."

"As I've said before, they're a Mickey Mouse organisation but there's no reason why they couldn't bring in people who've organised successful tournaments in the past."

Of recovering alcoholic Gascoigne, Schwarzer says: "I can only take him as I find him and so far he has been first class."

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER

Round 9: 4-7 December

Friday 04 December

Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory

7.30pm

Saturday 05 December

Gippsland Falcons v Melbourne Knights 7.00pm

Sunday 06 December

Marconi Fairfield v Sydney Olympic 5.00pm

South Melbourne v Wollongong Wolves 6.00pm

Adelaide Sharks v Carlton 7.00pm

Sydney United v Northern Spirit 5.00pm

Monday 07 December

Canberra Cosmos v Adelaide City 7.00pm

BYE: Brisbane Strikers

Wollongong and south eastern Sydney listeners can hear live updates on the Ericsson Cup as well as interviews on *Sunday Soccer* VOX FM 106.9, 9.00pm every Sunday with *Inside Soccer* editor, Bruce Campbell.

SOCCER AUSTRALIA SCORES UPDATE SERVICE

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NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

Australia v China

Australia needed lessons in reality to become match-hardened in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics, Olyroo coach Raul Blanco said.

Blanco said last week's two matches against China in Australia were just part of a lengthy campaign to ensure the Under 23 side consistently had a variety of quality opponents.

"We need to be ready for reality and the only way you can do that is by playing against as many opponents as possible, you just cannot get enough international competition," Blanco said.

He said Australia

wanted to test the best national teams in Asia, and China was there with Japan and South Korea.

"They are a side with good control, plenty of speed, they can be cheeky and every time I see them they impress me.

"It's the type of side we need to be playing against," Blanco told *Inside Soccer*.

The coach, however, was forced to rethink his line-up for the games at Marconi on Wednesday and at Wollongong on Friday following the withdrawal of classy Carlton defender Simon Colosimo.

Colosimo injured his groin in Carlton's 4-4 draw against South Melbourne and could

not recover in time to play forcing Blanco to bring in Melbourne Knights defender Dragi Nastevski.

"Colosimo is a loss as he is one of those players who appears to be in the right place at the right time, he also has a big influence on the team," Blanco said.

"He's one of the hottest properties in Australian soccer, but these things happen in football and I'm bringing a very capable replacement in Nastevski into the squad."

Blanco refused to compare the current side to past Olympic teams as the squad, with the exception of Hiroshume Sanfrecece

defender Hayden Foxe, is drawn only from locally-based players.

But he said he wanted especially to see how Sydney Olympic's Jason Culina performed after coming back from a leg break.

Carlton's Marco Bresciano and Foxe were two players Blanco was also keen to put under the microscope in the two game series.

"I just wanted to see what some of these players can do at international level," Blanco said.



MATCH #1: Australia 0 China 1 (Sydney)



Aussie keeper Danny Milosevic

By Gordon Dexter

A lacklustre Australian under-23 outfit suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to its Chinese counterpart in the opening game of their two-match soccer series, at Marconi Stadium.

It was the Olyroo's first defeat since a 3-2 reverse to South Africa at Wollongong 17 months ago.

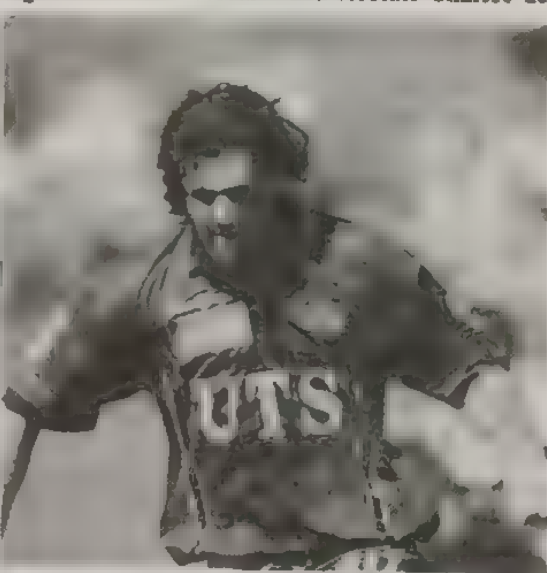
The home side was stunned eight minutes after the break when Jason Culina lost possession during an Australia attack and China countered through man-of-the-match Tao Wei who put the ball over the top of static stopper Ivan Zelic.

Lanky striker Li Yi ran onto the ball and his run from 35 metres ended with a rasping low drive from just inside the penalty area which flew into the right-hand corner past a stranded Danny Milosevic.

The Chinese could have doubled their lead five minutes later when a Tao cross was

met from just six metres out by Zhang Yunling but his free header sailed wide.

Olyroo captain Brett Emerton came closest for the home side with a close-in header from a Kasey Wehrman corner which thudded against the crossbar



three minutes from time.

Seconds earlier, an Emerton shot was well saved by keeper Li Jian from about 12 metres.

It was only the Olyroos second defeat since their Olympic campaign began 13 games ago.

Blanco was without five key players including Leeds star Harry Kewell, Millwall wing-back Lucas Neill and classy Carlton defender Simon Colosimo and their absence showed as the Olyroos failed to break a well organised and resolute Chinese de-

to prepare properly for the match.

"There wasn't enough time really ... its quite difficult with a short preparation, the Chinese played well," he said.

"I thought we were too casual, we lacked direction in the type of game we wanted to play. I think the Chinese brought a few people down to earth. We were quite lethargic."

China coach Keith Blunt, from the north of England, was thrilled with the result, especially given that many of his first-choice Olympic players were unavailable due to the national team's involvement at the Asian Games in Thailand starting December 1.

"I'm absolutely delighted, the results very important to us," the former Tottenham youth manager said.

"I wanted to see how we could perform against a very strong Australian side ... I think there are some good young athletes in the team who are reasonable ball players."

Hayden Foxe; coming back through a barrier of pain

Who played what

| | MATCH 1 | MATCH 2 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| GOALKEEPERS | | |
| Danny Milosevic | X | X |
| Joe Didulica | | |
| DEFENDERS | | |
| Tansel Baser | | X |
| Hayden Foxe | X | X |
| Simon Colosimo | | |
| Michael Garcia | X | |
| Sebastian Sinozic | X | X |
| Ivan Zelic | X | X1 |
| Dragi Nastevski | | S1 |
| MIDFIELDERS | | |
| Marco Bresciano | X | X |
| Jacob Burns | | X |
| Jason Culina | X | S2 |
| Kaey Wehrman | X | X3 |
| FORWARDS | | |
| Brett Emerton | X | |
| Carlos Gonzalez | | X |
| Zeljko Susa | | X2 |
| Andy Vargas | | S3 |
| Michael Curcija | X | X |
| Kosta Salapatsidis | X | |

By Gordon Dexter

Comeback kid Hayden Foxe held a distinct advantage over his team-mates when Australia's Olyroos tackled their Chinese counterparts.

The 21-year-old sweeper, a key member of the Hiroshima Sanfrecce team in the Japanese J-League, is familiar with Asian soccer following his season in Japan and expected the Chinese to adopt a similar style.

"They're technically as good as the Europeans but they're not as smart with their football brains, they're a bit naive," said Foxe, the only overseas-based member of the Australian under 23 Olympic squad involved in this weeks two-match series against the Chinese.

Foxe, who played in the senior team's goalless draw against the United States in California earlier this month, proudly wears the green and gold but not long ago it appeared his days on the football field could be numbered.

After the Atlanta Olympics he returned to Sydney where he endured a right ankle reconstruction that sidelined him for eight months.

His career seemed to have blossomed when he joined Arminia Bielefeld in the German Bundesliga last year following successful ankle rehabilitation.

But after only two weeks and one game with his new club, disaster struck.

He was diagnosed with a serious ankle

joint problem due to a blood circulation disorder in his right leg.

It took one year and much frustration and pain before he could return to soccer - a dreadful blow for such a young player.

"It really wasn't easy, I went to the gym every day and did a lot of swimming ... that was all I could do. Yes it's been a rough two years.

"I never thought my career was over, not at this age and I'm now finally over it and I've really enjoyed my five months in Japan," said Foxe, who plays under former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson.

Foxe had little prob-



lem fitting in, as two other Australian internationals - Aurelio Vidmar and Tony Popovic - were part of the team that finished the season last weekend in ninth position in the 18-team J-League.

He will be out of contract at Hiroshima next month and hinted that despite wishing to remain in the lucrative

J-League, where he earns in excess of \$150,000 a year tax free, would be keen to play in Europe after the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Foxe will return to Japan in three weeks for its domestic cup competition but once Hiroshima has been eliminated will fly home until pre-season training in February.

MATCH #1: Australia 3 China 3 (Wollongong)

The Australian Olyroos blew a two-goal lead and allowed a third goal equaliser just three minutes from full time as China snatched a 3-3 draw in their Under-23 International at Brandon Park on Friday night in front of a smallish crowd.

Striker Zhang Yunying capitalised on a defensive error from Australian fullback Tansel Baser to score a dramatic equaliser in the 87th minute.

Defender Hayden Foxe looked to have secured an Australian win with his second goal, putting the Olyroos 3-2 ahead with just eight minutes remaining.

But China, who trailed 2-0 after 21 minutes, fought back hard for a deserved draw.

At Brandon Park four goals were scored in the opening half hour, two by each side, while Australia also had two shots hit the posts before half time.

In an action packed first half, Olyroos

striker Zeljko Susa headed against the post after just 10 minutes.

Six minutes later, after a patient build up, Michael Curcija scored after a low cross from Baser on the right hand side.

Foxe earned the Olyroos a two-goal lead on 21 minutes with a brilliantly-taken free kick, curling the ball around the wall and leaving keeper Li Jian stranded.

Australia appeared headed for a convincing win but just five minutes later a China counter attack was finished off by Li Yi.

Yi scored the winner in the opening game.

Just two minutes later China equalised from the penalty spot with Yunying brought down by Olyroos goalkeeper Danny Milosevic.

Tao Wei took the penalty sending Milosevic the wrong way.

Australia almost regained the lead in the 34th minute when a Curcija shot bounced off the post and a fol-



low-up brilliantly parried by Jian then his third shot deflected off the line by a Chinese defender.

Australia had more of the play in the second half and Foxe looked to have grabbed the match winner, when he outjumped Jian from a free kick.

The goalkeeper spilled the ball with Foxe on hand to score.

But the celebrations in front of over 3,000

fans were short-lived after Yunying forced a strong save by Milosevic.

With just three minutes remaining Baser lost possession in his penalty box and was punished by Juning.

Australian coach Raul Blanco was pleased with his side's performance but described the defending as "naive".

"The performance itself was a good one

but I think the goals were avoidable," Blanco said.

"You can't play international football and be as naive as we were tonight.

"When you're 2-0 up after 20 minutes, you really have to go on with it.

"The goals we gave away were all from defensive mistakes and when we led 3-2 with just a few minutes to go, we played some

very silly football.

"We had the ball, kept giving it away and got punished."

Blanco said even though Australia was automatic qualifier as hosts for the Sydney 2000 Games, it did not make the preparation easy.

"We need to keep playing countries such as China and nations from as many continents as we can find," he said.

"We have 15 players

overseas and it makes it difficult for me to get a squad together on short notice.

"Remember these lads were playing for their club team last Sunday and suddenly were thrown together for two internationals in three days."

China coach Keith Blunt was delighted with his team's performance.

"There's plenty of fight from these boys," Blunt said.

"In the first half we were comprehensively outplayed and being two goals down after just 20 minutes, I feared the worst, but we kept battling and never gave up and achieved a great result.

"We have learned so much from these two games - I can't begin to tell you.

"Australia is a top class country and the experience we have gained will be great in our preparation for hopefully qualifying for the games."

South Africa ready to host Cup

by Daniel Wakin
in South Africa

Minibus taxis career through the crowded roads. Hawkers sell roasted chops and bottles of whisky. Inside the stadium, marijuana smoke wafts upward as security guards with whips oversee the crowd filling more than 50,000 unreserved seats.

The fans at this recent derby between Kaiser Chiefs and Orlando Pirates, South Africa's two most popular soccer teams, sing and sway with African rhythms.

Not your typical World Cup scene.

But the day captured many of the pluses and minuses of the rainbow nation's bid to stage the 2006 soccer showpiece.

Sceptics point to the country's high crime, bad transportation system, lack of wealth and disorganised national soccer scene.

But South Africa's soccer mandarins brush aside the

practical arguments against holding the World Cup here, in favour of what they say is more important.

It is Africa's turn, and Europe's moral obligation to a nation emerging from decades of racist rule where the long-oppressed

daan, head of the World Cup bid committee.

Jordaan cites, the many African players now playing in Europe, the success of African teams like Cameroon and Nigeria in recent editions and the "life-giving force" that is soccer

Moreover, Europe has had the cup nine times, Latin America five and the United States once.

Africa?

Never.

England and Germany are in the race for 2006, with other bids expected

ENGLAND LIST WORLD CUP GROUNDS

England's bid for the 2006 World Cup was boosted with confirmation that 16 grounds are on the category 'A' list. The grounds, which meet FIFA requirements, are likely to be included in England's World Cup bid submission to world football's governing body next July, although more stadia can be added.

Wembley is being rebuilt over the next three years, the Millennium Stadium in Manchester will be ready for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and redevelopment is taking place at other stadia. The category 'A' list, with the capacity available for the World Cup is: Aston Villa (51,000), Blackburn (40,000), Chelsea (42,000), Coventry (40,000), Derby (40,000), Everton (40,000), Leeds (45,000), Leicester (40,000), Liverpool (45,000), Manchester United (67,500), Middlesbrough (42,000), Millennium Stadium (50,000), Newcastle (51,000), Sheffield Wednesday (40,000), Sunderland (42,000), Wembley (80,000).

Campaign director Alec McGivan said: "This shows that England can offer the most wonderful choice of grounds to FIFA for the 2006 World Cup. I don't think any country which has bid for a World Cup has ever been able to offer such a large number of high-class stadiums."

black majority lives for soccer.

The World Cup "provides a vision, a focus, for a society in transition, which is moving from a divided past to a united future," said Danny Jor-

to the black population.

The committee's news releases even play the Nelson Mandela card, citing the "international respect of an almost unprecedented level" accorded the freedom-fighting president.

from South America.

FIFA president Joseph S. Blatter is on record supporting South Africa's bid provided its facilities are up to par.

"There's this sense in world football that Africa

deserves to stage the World Cup one day," said Keir Radnedge, executive editor of London-based World Soccer magazine.

"That's not necessarily based on any logistical or financial common sense.

"It's more based on sentiment."

The bid committee cites the country's relatively good telecommunications, road network, sophisticated tourist industry and good weather.

And as South Africa travels further away from the international isolation brought by apartheid, the outside world is arriving.

South Africa hosted the 1995 rugby World Cup, 1996 Africa Cup of Nations and 1998 athletics World Cup.

It lost out on the 2004 Olympics to Athens. But Jordaan said the country's sports establishment decided to focus on the World Cup instead of another Olympic bid because it would benefit eight cities instead of one, and because many of the Olympic sports have no following here.

But despite the sentimental arguments, critics say the problems may be too great for South Africa to hold the biggest, richest and most watched sports event on the globe. South Africa's cities are among the most dangerous in the world.

When the West Indies cricket team baulked at coming in a pay dispute last month, one of their demands was increased security.

On the plus side, "You don't see (crime) in the stadiums," said Molefi Mika, sports editor of The Sowetan newspaper.

"You wouldn't compare what we have seen in competition in Europe."

Despite the lack of European-style hooliganism, South African soccer is not immune to the occasional

attack on a referee or riot outside the turnstiles.

Public transport is so bad that in many cities most commuters use private minibus taxis, the terror of car drivers and an industry riddled with factional violence.

Stadium security is another issue. Under apartheid, the police ignored soccer the main sport followed by blacks.

So security at stadiums is, handled by private groups, which lack the expertise

and authority of the riot police who inhabit European stadiums.

The best stadiums in South Africa are owned by rugby, a complication, but not insurmountable obstacle, to the World Cup bid.

Soccer officials in England, South Africa's rival for 2006 along with Germany, have chafed at Jordaan's comments that European stadiums are relics of the 1950s and '60s.

Jordaan acknowledges that transportation is a major problem, but is counting on independent government plans to upgrade the bus and rail system.

As for crime, "eight years from now it will be something that belongs to our past," Jordaan said.

The problem is, FIFA makes its choice in March of 2000. Formal applications are due by the end of the year.

Jordaan sees hope in the composition of FIFA's board four members from Africa and four from Asia, compared to Europe's eight.

The rest come from the Americas and one from Oceania.

Germany and England could split the European votes, allowing South Africa in the back door, though Radnedge says South Africa shouldn't take the Africa votes for granted.

Der Kaiser launches German bid

By Greg Calhoun

Germany formally entered the race to stage the 2006 World Cup finals last week when it handed an initial bid document to FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

Franz Beckenbauer, the only man to captain and then manage a World Cup-winning team, handed in the document in his current position as the vice-president of the German Football Association (DFB).

Beckenbauer and German bid co-ordinator Fedor Radmann spent an hour with Blatter who said afterwards: "I am pleased that Franz Beckenbauer personally handed over this document to me."

"FIFA feels lucky that its most prestigious competition is attracting such great interest worldwide and especially in Germany."

"I'm sure the DFB, as we have come to expect, will produce a strong bid document," Blatter added.

Beckenbauer said Germany had as good a chance as any other bidder to get the event.

"Our last World Cup was in 1974 ... we think that by 2006 we would again be approaching the time when a major competition should take place in Germany," Beckenbauer said.

But Beckenbauer, who last month was elected vice-president of the German Soccer Federation, said he under-

stood Blatter's advocacy for getting the World Cup to Africa.

Blatter has repeatedly said that an African country would be the logical choice to host the tournament as long as it could meet strict guidelines on issues such as infrastructure, security and facilities.

"Blatter's forum is the world and from his position it is naturally also important the World Cup goes to Africa," said Beckenbauer.

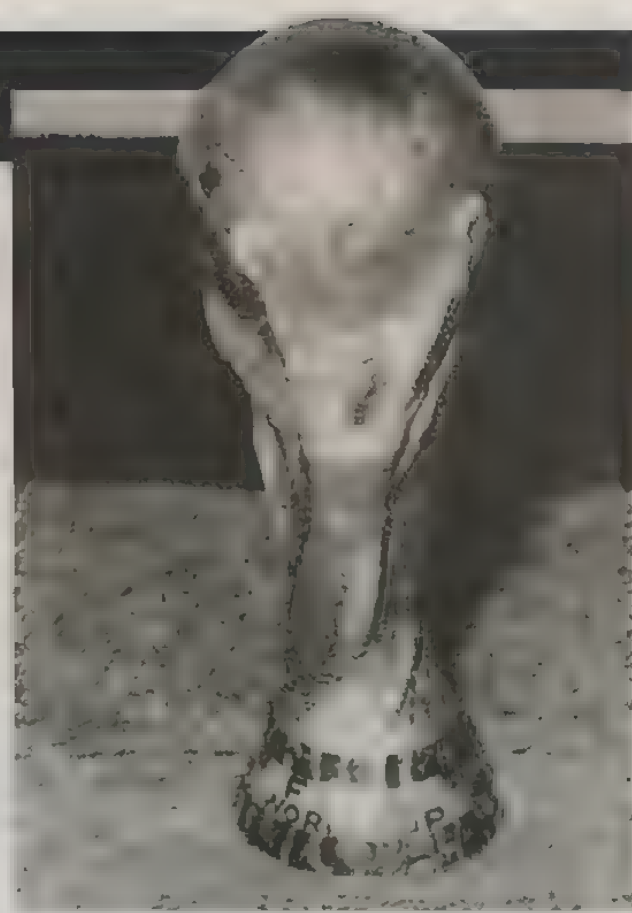
"The World Cup has already been in Europe, it has been to America and it will be in Asia."

"Africa is missing and the rotation will at some point take it to Africa," Beckenbauer said.

But at least for the time being Europe was better placed to host the event, said the legendary German, who captained West Germany to victory on home soil in the 1974 World Cup and managed the team to success in Italy in 1990.

"European countries at present naturally have infrastructures that give them advantages but at some point Africa will get the World Cup," he said.

Germany faces tough competition to host the tournament from England and South Africa, which have formally declared their intentions to bid and possibly Brazil, Morocco, Nigeria and Egypt, which have all shown an interest.



Labbozzetta: "Venables had a conflict of interest"

By Ted Simmons

Marconi national soccer league club has bought into the Terry Venables inquiry by asking Soccer Australia to inquire into the transfer of former Socceroo Craig Foster to English club Crystal Palace.

President Tony Labbozzetta said he believed his club had been deprived of income by a situation which had arisen in England.

"Foster had been transferred from us last year to Portsmouth for \$A530,000 and we now find he's gone to Palace on a free clearance from us but for more than Stg2 million (\$A5,234,200)," he said.

"It's incredible to think a player is worth so much money yet is



Marconi chairman Tony Labbozzetta

transferred on a free clearance.

"It seems Marconi will get nothing out of the transfer from Portsmouth to Crystal Palace and we've reported the matter to Soccer Australia to take up with the English authorities."

Labbozzetta's statement, which was first aired on SBS TV, follows reports from London that former Soc-

ceroo coach Venables has been linked to a police investigation into the transfer of Australian players to Portsmouth.

Venables was chairman of Portsmouth before taking the managerial role at Crystal Palace.

Venables had on several occasions insisted he had no involvement in the transfer of Australian players and

that the Portsmouth manager would handle all negotiations on behalf of the club.

However, Labbozzetta contradicted the report and said Venables was personally involved in Foster's transfer while he was Australian national coach and Portsmouth chairman.

"If you negotiate with a club president, then I negotiated with Venables and resolved a deal," he said.

"Whether Venables has breached any rules is a matter for him to determine but I dealt with the matter successfully for my club.

"I don't believe it makes any difference whether he got his manager to negotiate because I think it was still a conflict of interest."



Craig Foster: the former Marconi player is the centre of a dispute involving Terry Venables, Portsmouth, Crystal Palace and Marconi

**WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU KEEP A
STALLION IN A STABLE
FOR A WEEK**

Marconi Fairfield

v

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AUSSIE STARS

JOHN FILAN

BLACKBURN ROVERS

BY Andrew Davis

John Filan's career has certainly taken a step or two forwards in the last few years.

John started his soccer days in the St Michael's school team in the north of Sydney and in the local side the Carlingford Redbacks.

From the Gladesville/Hornsby district he moved to St George BSC where he played until the club left the NSL.

Two seasons were played on the south coast with Wollongong before Filan moved to the UK to further his career.

He ended up at Cambridge United where he became a star.

However when you think of glorious English grounds, of fame and fortune the Abbey Stadium and Cambridge do not spring to mind straight away (having been there I can personally vouch for that).

Filan actually had a loan spell at Nottingham Forest but nothing came of that and instead he ended up as number two at Coventry City.

He played 16 times at City before an even bigger club came across his path, Blackburn Rovers.

Today he competes for the first team with England number two Tim Flowers.

Filan is now in the top echelons of world football yet he remembers those days back in Oz making a name for himself.

"The best part about it was playing senior football at such a young age," he says.

"I enjoyed my time at both clubs and even today I keep up with people like David Ratcliffe" (his coach at Wollongong).



John Filan

Best club played for: Blackburn

Preferred position: Goalkeeper (put it this way I couldn't run out of sight on a dark night!)

Best aspects of your game: Catching crosses, kicking.

Team you supported as a child: Any team with Pat Jennings in it.

Favourite player: Pat Jennings

Toughest Opponent: All Strikers

Funniest team mate: Billy McKinlay

Favourite Hobbies: Fast Cars, DIY, nights out.

Favourite TV show: Cheers

Favourite music style: Rock

The car you drive: BMW 850 CSI

4 people you could get stuck on a desert island with:

My Girlfriend

Billy Connolly

Tarzan

Anyone who had 1000 cases of beer with them

Advice to a young player wanting to play in Europe;

1. Work Hard

2. Believe in yourself

3. Bring some warm clothes



"You only really catch up when you are playing against them but I am happy that many of the lads have made it over here."

As for internal life inside a club like Blackburn, the professionalism of the game is shown in John's words about Tim Flowers, his rival for the first team goalkeeper's jersey.

"We train together all the time. It is useless coming in new to a club and putting off guys you have to train with and be around for so much of the time just because you are competing for their spot."

"It's best to be mates in these situations. You are all professional footballers and you both know what you have to do, but you need to be mates."

As for the future?

"I really want to enjoy my football career and stay relatively injury free. I also want success, but if the enjoyment goes then I will give it up."

"Eventually I may come back and play in Australia, depending on what age I finish here, but I should not think I will take it too seriously by then."

And his views on Australian repres-

entation? "I played in the Hungary game under Terry Venables but that was about it recently. For Australia there is only one competition, the World Cup and that only comes up every four years."

"Sure I'd love to play but I am not obsessed about it, I mean at present we have not even appointed a new permanent coach. I will continue enjoying my football and if that includes playing for Australia, fantastic."

The last word should be left for John to say to any youngsters looking to fly across to Europe when they are very young to play football.

"I think leaving Australia at 14/15 is a bit young, you must develop first. Come when you are 18 or 19, clubs look at players around that age."

"Know also that it is a big step to come over here. At Blackburn we signed a young apprentice keeper at the beginning of the season, he flew over here and realised it was not for him straight away and went back home. It is not for all people and it is not easy, never forget that."



WORLD RANKINGS

KEY

A: Points as at 18 November

B: Ranking as at 18 October

C: Change

D: Rank as at December 1997

E: Change since December 1997

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 1 Brazil | 73.59 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 France | 68.98 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 Germany | 67.07 | 3 | 0 | 2 | -1 |
| 4 Croatia | 66.75 | 4 | 0 | 19 | 15 |
| 5 Argentina | 66.22 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 12 |
| 6 Czech Republic | 64.37 | 7 | 1 | 3 | -3 |
| 7 Yugoslavia | 64.34 | 8 | 1 | 20 | 13 |
| 8 Italy | 64.29 | 6 | -2 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 Netherlands | 62.41 | 9 | 0 | 22 | 13 |
| 10 Mexico | 62.27 | 11 | 1 | 5 | -5 |
| 11 England | 61.70 | 10 | -1 | 4 | -7 |
| 12 Romania | 59.87 | 12 | 0 | 7 | -5 |
| 13 Morocco | 59.66 | 13 | 0 | 15 | 2 |
| 14 Norway | 59.12 | 14 | 0 | 13 | -1 |
| 15 Spain | 58.37 | 16 | 1 | 11 | -4 |
| 16 Chile | 57.81 | 15 | -1 | 16 | 0 |
| 17 Sweden | 56.32 | 25 | 8 | 18 | 1 |
| 18 Denmark | 55.19 | 18 | 0 | 8 | -10 |
| 18 Korea Republic | 55.19 | 19 | 1 | 27 | 9 |
| 20 Tunisia | 54.85 | 26 | 6 | 23 | 3 |
| 21 Austria | 54.76 | 22 | 1 | 25 | 4 |
| 22 United States | 54.74 | 17 | -5 | 26 | 4 |
| 23 Egypt | 54.61 | 20 | -3 | 32 | 9 |
| 24 Paraguay | 54.57 | 24 | 0 | 29 | 5 |
| 25 Kuwait | 54.29 | 38 | 13 | 44 | 19 |
| 26 Zambia | 54.03 | 23 | -3 | 21 | -5 |
| 27 Saudi Arabia | 52.72 | 30 | 3 | 33 | 6 |
| 28 South Africa | 52.70 | 28 | 0 | 31 | 3 |
| 29 Poland | 52.30 | 34 | 5 | 48 | 19 |
| 30 Japan | 52.14 | 21 | -9 | 14 | -16 |
| 31 Slovakia | 52.06 | 29 | -2 | 34 | 3 |
| 32 Colombia | 51.89 | 27 | -5 | 10 | -22 |
| 33 Jamaica | 51.87 | 32 | -1 | 39 | 6 |
| 34 Belgium | 51.76 | 31 | -3 | 41 | 7 |
| 35 Australia | 51.33 | 33 | -2 | 35 | 0 |
| 36 Scotland | 49.52 | 37 | 1 | 37 | 1 |
| 37 Russia | 49.28 | 35 | -2 | 12 | -25 |
| 38 Israel | 49.17 | 36 | -2 | 61 | 23 |
| 39 Cameroon | 48.35 | 40 | 1 | 53 | 14 |
| 40 Portugal | 47.96 | 39 | -1 | 30 | -10 |
| 41 Cote d'Ivoire | 47.11 | 43 | 2 | 52 | 11 |
| 42 UAE | 46.97 | 58 | 16 | 50 | 8 |
| 43 Ukraine | 46.41 | 42 | -1 | 49 | 6 |
| 44 Iran | 46.35 | 44 | 0 | 46 | 2 |
| 45 Hungary | 46.05 | 49 | 4 | 77 | 32 |
| 46 Bulgaria | 45.65 | 45 | -1 | 36 | -10 |
| 47 Uruguay | 45.18 | 41 | -6 | 40 | -7 |
| 48 Ghana | 44.96 | 46 | -2 | 57 | 9 |
| 49 Trinidad | 44.88 | 47 | -2 | 55 | 6 |
| 50 Angola | 44.59 | 48 | -2 | 58 | 8 |
| 51 Thailand | 43.59 | 50 | -1 | 54 | 3 |
| 52 Finland | 43.40 | 53 | 1 | 60 | 8 |
| 53 Mali | 42.91 | 54 | 1 | 80 | 27 |
| 54 Greece | 42.77 | 55 | 1 | 42 | -12 |
| 55 Georgia | 42.52 | 59 | 4 | 69 | 14 |
| 56 Turkey | 42.51 | 60 | 4 | 43 | -13 |
| 57 Eire | 42.05 | 52 | -5 | 47 | -10 |
| 58 Lithuania | 41.57 | 61 | 3 | 45 | -13 |
| 59 Iceland | 41.27 | 62 | 3 | 72 | 13 |
| 60 Bolivia | 41.24 | 63 | 3 | 24 | -36 |
| 61 Algeria | 41.20 | 69 | 8 | 59 | -2 |
| 62 Congo (Zaire) | 41.19 | 65 | 3 | 76 | 14 |
| 63 Ecuador | 40.81 | 66 | 3 | 28 | -35 |
| 64 FYR Macedonia | 40.78 | 67 | 3 | 92 | 28 |
| 65 Nigeria | 40.53 | 68 | 3 | 71 | 6 |
| 66 Costa Rica | 40.43 | 51 | -1551 | -15 | |
| 67 Guinea | 40.19 | 70 | 3 | 65 | -2 |
| 68 Namibia | 40.08 | 73 | 5 | 86 | 18 |
| 69 China PR | 40.04 | 57 | -1255 | -14 | |
| 70 Peru | 39.65 | 64 | -6 | 38 | -32 |
| 71 Oman | 39.48 | 108 | 37 | 81 | 10 |
| 72 Zimbabwe | 39.31 | 75 | 3 | 74 | 2 |
| 73 Togo | 39.19 | 71 | -2 | 78 | 5 |

Trim Glory

High scoring striker Trim Morgan is set to join Perth Glory. The Western Knights top scorer is seen as a useful addition to the Glory squad.

The former England schoolboy international and Northampton Town reserve had a short and unsuccessful spell at Canberra Cosmos last season. In the last State League season Morgan scored 18 goals for the WA Premiers.

As with the other expats John Filan says G'day to any of the Aussie players that cross his path and keeps an eye out for them but that is where most of the contact stops.

Australian repres-

Spirit held at home by Strikers

By Ted Simmons

UPSET NORTHERN Spirit coach Graham Arnold said he was not impressed after his team had drawn 1-1 with Brisbane Strikers in the national soccer league match at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

Spirit opened the scoring in the 15th minute through Kresimir Marusic but Brisbane midfielder Chay Hews tied up the game in the 67th minute.

"Our second half was not acceptable and we lost too much ball," said Arnold.

"Maybe I'm too harsh on the young players but I told them at halftime not to drop back."

Northern Spirit, again supported by a big crowd of 15,862, had dominated

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Marusic 15)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 (Hews 67)
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Attendance: 15,862
Man of the Match: Kresimir Marusic SPRT

the first half but fell into a string of errors in the second half which allowed Brisbane to take control.

Wollongong teenager Matthew Langdon, making his debut in the senior team, quickly stamped his authority on the Spirit left side.

He started the final passing session which led to the opening goal when he pursued the ball on the left, passed to fellow apprentice Dan Watkins who found Marusic on the penalty spot.

The wily Marusic quickly

turned his defender and hit the ball to the right of the keeper.

Brisbane, which has been conceding goals in the final minutes of its games, drew level midway through the second half after a series of raids on the hesitant Spirit backline.

A shot at goal was weakly cleared by defender Eddy Bosnar to the waiting Hews who converted his drive from 20 metres.

"We sat back and let them run it and some of my defenders were not working hard enough," said Bris-

bane coach John Kosmina.

"They are a very inexperienced side and I told them at halftime that they had to pick up the tempo."

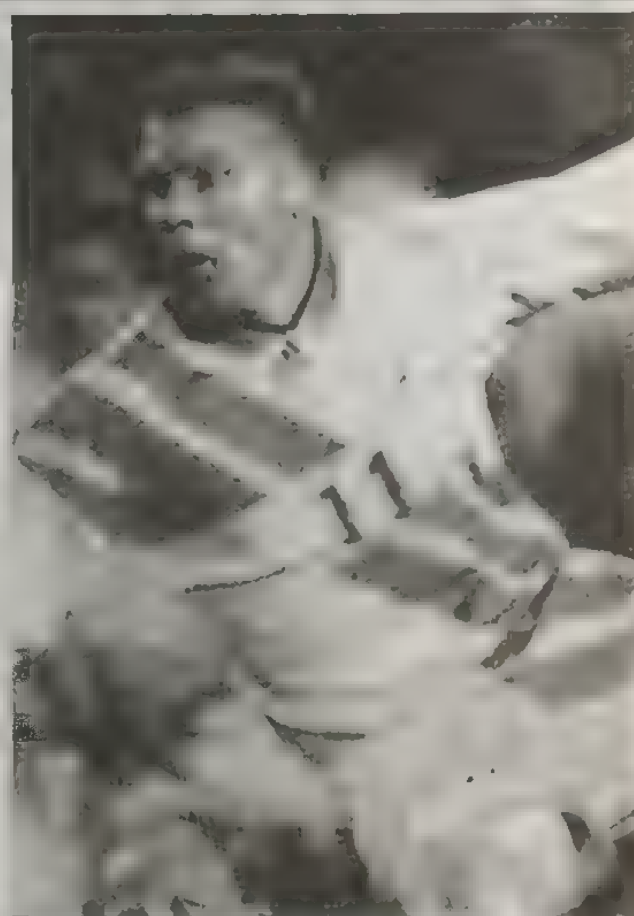
Both teams found the woodwork and had chances cleared off the line.

Langdon was in action early with smart play along the left flank which ended with Robbie Slater firing wide.

Apart from early runs by Andy Harper, Brisbane had little impact in the first half and left gaping holes for Spirit to exploit.

Slater was a continual thorn to the Strikers and should have doubled the score just on halftime when his rasping shot from the right hit the post.

Brisbane stepped up the pace in the second half with Wayne Knupe and



Robbie Slater: off target for Spirit

Jeromy Harris both hitting the post.

Spirit had another chance denied 10 minutes from time when a Langdon chip was headed by Mark Rudan onto the post and then cleared off the Brisbane line.

Keeper Paul Henderson made two strong saves for Northern Spirit in the last five minutes when he dived at the feet of the advancing Harper and also cleared the ball in another battle on the edge of the penalty area.

Horvat reflects on the misery of what could have been

It's a year and a million regrets since Australia's soccer players sunk to their knees at the MCG, their dreams of a World Cup appearance lost to the heartbreaking away goals rule.

Much of what has happened to Australian soccer since has reflected the terrible hangover of that event and the time is long overdue to take stock then shake it off.

The powerbrokers who steered the Socceroos to within a whisker of the Cup finals have evaporated from the Australian scene since seeing Iran steal the late draw which gave it the last Cup berth.

David Hill, the driving force behind Australian soccer quit to pursue other interests, Terry Venables - the crafty cockney - headed back to London to take charge at Crystal Palace and the game has drifted back to the inside sport pages alongside dog racing and netball.

The players wept or stared blankly into the packed stands where fans gulped back tears at the 2-2 draw, a tragedy for the immediate future of Australian soccer.

Stopper Steve Horvat struggled to come to terms with the outcome as Australia had dominated the game, led 2-0 well into the second

half and then missed out on the away goals count double rule.

"There were plenty of tears but from a personal point of view I was just shocked, it never sunk in until about a month after," Horvat told *Inside Soccer*.

"I just could not believe anything like that could happen, it was the craziest game I've ever played in."

With Australia 2-0 up, serial big-event pest Peter Hore swerved past security and cut a goal net, the game was held up for a lengthy period and at the re-start Iran broke the Socceroos cast-iron grip on the game.

Hore became the

most wanted man in Melbourne and was pelted with debris as he was escorted from the ground by police.

"Who knows, if there had been no stoppage we might have won the game," reflected Horvat who suffered criticism after Khodadad Azizi raced past the Australian backline to level.

"Games can change in a split second through a decision or through indecision."

Horvat could rightly argue that Australia should have been further ahead after a series of missed chances, especially in the opening spell, but he won't.

He still finds it hard



to talk about the exit in the qualifiers and the enormity of the two leg loss was resurrected when he watched the finals in France on television.

Horvat, who expects to receive a work permit within a fortnight to join Venables at Palace, is disappointed that the momentum has been lost.

Australia has still to appoint a replacement for Venables and Raul

Blanco has been left in limbo as caretaker coach.

"The national set-up at the moment is in disarray."

"The indecision is causing all sorts of problems, David Hill had his critics for the way he did things but he created the most exciting period that soccer has ever seen in this country."

"The publicity and promotion of the game

was huge, Soccer Australia do not appear to be able to follow that lead at the moment," he said.

With the World Cup four years away Soccer Australia is pouring its limited resources into the Olympic team while the national side is being pushed into the background.

In June the Socceroos will again take the spotlight with a game against a FIFA World XI to mark the opening of the Olympic stadium in Sydney.

If commonsense prevails Blanco should have the Socceroos job or the sole task of preparing the Olyroos.

The focus of the soccer world will again be on Australia, its too big an event for a stand-in coach who contests every game as if his career depends on it.

The players, including skipper Alex Tobin, have made it clear they need a decision quickly.

When he announced he was quitting Hill warned: "It's too easy to do too little not to create offence."

Soccer Australia should heed his warning before it's too late.

Wollongong gets up over plucky Cosmos

Two late goals rescued Wollongong Wolves and sank Canberra Cosmos 4-2 in this National Soccer League clash at Brandon Park.

Substitutes Esala Masi in the 83rd minute and Saso Petrovski in the 85th broke a 2-2 deadlock to seal an unimpressive Wolves win.

Canberra remain without a point following eight straight losses but fought hard and were unlucky not to snatch a draw.

The Cosmos sacked coach Rale Rasic last Wednesday but the players rallied hard for caretaker coach Tony

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 4
(Horsley, Chipperfield, Petrovski, Masi)
CANBERRA COSMOS 2 (Buljan, Magnacca)
Venue: Brandon Park
Man of the Match: Norman Kelly CANB

Brennan.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos blasted his side at half-time with the game poised 1-1.

"I told them at half-time to ship up or shape out," Theodorakopoulos said.

"It's the first time this year I've blasted the players."

It was the Wolves first home win of the season but an uninspir-

ing one despite Theodorakopoulos claiming his side created enough chances to win 6-1.

Canberra took a shock lead after just seven minutes when striker Peter Buljan scored at the second attempt following terrible marking.

Buljan had a breakaway chance after just three minutes but couldn't beat Wolves

keeper Les Pogliacomi.

The Wolves equalised on 21 minutes through skipper Matt Horsley following a long throw from wingback Alvin Cecoli.

Horsley squeezed his shot under the body of Canberra keeper Vilson Knezevic.

Canberra created two clear chances to again take the lead with Pogliacomi forced to make fine saves.

Then, in the 53rd minute a fine exchange of passes between Wolves substitute Saso Petrovski and Scott Chipperfield led to Chipperfield scoring

from eight metres.

But in the 60th minute Pogliacomi was at fault for Canberra's bizarre equaliser.

The goalkeeper failed to clear the ball, then was dispossessed by Cosmos midfielder Doug Marcina, with striker Anthony Magnacca on hand to score.

Canberra tired over the final 20 minutes as Wollongong piled on the pressure.

Masi who had only been on the park a few minutes seized on a great pass from Horsley to put the Wolves ahead with just seven minutes remaining.

Petrovski finished off



Cosmos skipper Norman Kelly

a fine cross from Chipperfield for Wollongong's fourth goal just five minutes from fulltime.

Though Wollongong

were relieved to take the three points they have a lot of improving ahead if they are to make the play-offs this season.

Jonesy bags two as Glory make it eight

Perth Glory stretched its lead at the top of the NSL ladder after a thrilling, and at times, spiteful, win over the Adelaide Sharks here today. Two memorable goals from powerful Perth striker John Markovski

However, the win, Perth's seventh in eight outings, came at a cost. Reliable sweeper Vinko Buljubasic was taken to hospital at halftime with a suspected broken leg.

Buljubasic collapsed in agony late in the first half after a dubious challenge and had to be stretchered from the pitch.

His absence in the coming weeks will hurt the Glory which is already missing Soccerroo wing-back Robert Trajkovski, who underwent a hernia operation on Tuesday afternoon.

With Marconi having a bye this weekend, Perth is now six points clear with an envious record of seven

wins and one draw for new coach, former East German mentor Bernd Stange.

Perth made a bright start but squandered a myriad of opportunities before the Sharks, the only team the high flying WA outfit had yet to beat, created chances of their own.

A Markovski shot in the dying stages of the first half

PERTH GLORY 2 (Markovski 43, 61)
ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Porter 72)
Venue: Perth Oval
Attendance: 15,444
Man of the Match: John Markovski PRTH

was kicked free right on the goal line but the former Soccerroo made amends a minute later when a thunderous left foot free kick left Sharks goalkeeper Nathan Wildy floundering.

As the ball slammed into the right side of the net, a push-and-shove broke out inside the six-yard penalty box, resulting in yellow cards being dished out to Adelaide's Hamilton Thorp and Perth's Scott Miller.

Markovski appeared to have sewn the game up in the 62nd minute when he swivelled and unleashed another sizzling strike with his left foot that left Wildy again grasping for air.

However, Adelaide was not to be denied and a Joel Porter cross from deep on the sideline found the back

of the net when Perth's Olyroos keeper Danny Milosevic was unsuccessful in his attempt to parry the ball over the crossbar.

The Sharks had a bevy of opportunities to draw level in the final stages, particularly in the last 60 seconds when every attempt on goal miraculously missed or was thwarted by Milosevic.

Stange was delighted with the result, but seething at the Buljubasic incident.

"This was a foul - it was a tackle that was over the top," Stange said. "We must now go on the transfer list and look for somebody else."

Stange was also lavish in his praise of Markovski. "He is a match winner - he's a striker."

asics

Cardozo double salvages pride

By Ted Simmons

Striker Pablo Cardozo salvaged Sydney Olympic's pride with a double in his team's 2-1 National Soccer League win over Newcastle at Belmore Sports Ground.

Cardozo, who took his season tally to six, put the ball into the Newcastle net in the 33rd and 45th minutes in a generally disappointing game.

"I've never scored a hat-trick before and maybe I'm saving it for a bigger occasion," said Cardozo.

"The first ball came to me late but I found a bit of space before shooting for one of my few attempts in the first half.

"The second goal came after good lead up from Brett Emerton."

Newcastle attacked more during the first 20 minutes, but Olympic had the better of the last 15 minutes when Cardozo struck twice.

Jason Culina stirred the Olym-

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Cardozo 32, 44)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Buonavoglia 84)**
Venue: Belmore Sportsground
Man of the Match: Pablo Cardozo SOLY

pic fans when his right side cross flew to Mehmet Durakovic whose flick-on gave Cardozo his initial goal.

Durakovic two minutes later was responsible for a tackle which robbed Robert Shannon of the ball only metres from the Olympic goal.

Speedy Newcastle attacker Andy Roberts, who had made a number of early runs, almost levelled the game two minutes from halftime, but his close range shot was covered by the keeper.

With only seconds to the break, Scott Thomas crossed after a right side run to Emerton whose slick back heel pass was rammed into the net by Cardozo.

Cardozo almost notched his hat-trick 14 minutes into the second half when he ran onto a loose ball from a defensive mix up but shot wide.

Another chance was lost in the 82nd minute when Cardozo broke free and angled into the penalty area but chose to pass to Emerton whose mis-kick screwed wide of the goal.

Newcastle continued to fight and finally got on the score sheet but with too little time left.

Striker John Buonavoglia found room on the right and Fouad Umlil launched into a diving header with the ball spinning into the goal.



Double strike Pablo Cardozo

South takes rare win in spiteful derby

By Paul Millar

Ericsson Cup champions South Melbourne outlasted a dogged Melbourne Knights to claim a hard-fought 1-0 win at Somers Street.

It was South's first regular season victory at Knights Stadium in six years and the visitors had to fight for every blade of grass in this spiteful showdown.

The Knights won the yellow card tally 5-3, but nursed plenty of bruises from a game where loose elbows almost always found their target.

Goran Lozanovski gave South the lead with a curling free-kick after 12 minutes following a mostly defensive error, but the league champions had to dig deep to stop the Knights levelling.

"One nil and hanging on is fine by me," said South coach Ang Postecoglou. We were under pressure but I was prepared for that," he said adding that it was always a tough ask to claim a win at Knights Stadium.

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Lozanovski)**
Venue: Knights Park
Man of the Match: Vaughan Coveney SMEL

"Being champions made it that much harder every week as the opposition always lifted.

"It comes with being champions, it comes with being South Melbourne," he said.

Knights' coach Vid Horvat said it was the best his young side, brought together on a shoestring budget, had played all year.

"We created so many chances but in the end the score was zero for us."

He also refused to complain about the off-the ball clashes.

"In a derby like this there's always fire," he said.

After a tame opening ten minutes goalkeeper Joe Didulica picked up a back-pass from team-mate Ivan Jolic and con-

ceded a free-kick on the edge of the box.

Lozanovski had packed his shooting boots and when Jason Polak back-heeled to him, the ball was always goalbound.

Vaughan Coveney then crashed head-on into Didulica as both players raced for the ball, the keeper was left writhing in agony and Kiwi international was the target of some torrid abuse from the Knights' fans.

Jason Vudakin appeared to square the ledger with a flying elbow that caught the New Zealander on the blind side of referee Eugene Brazzale.

Minutes later Ante Kovacevic was holding his face as players became more concerned about

settling scores than winning the game.

In a stop-start game South never moved into top gear while the Knights pinned South back into the penalty area late in the game as they desperately searched for a leveller.

The Knights hit South with everything in the dying minutes but the visitors soaked it all up.

Ivan Kelic then had a header stopped at point-blank range by Michael Petkovic and the Knights hopes of a leveller were gone.



Angie Postecoglou: happy

Moreira shines for Carlton

By Alan Clark

Carlton - with the league's most prolific home attack, faced Gippsland Falcons - the league's second-most miserly away defence. Something had to give.

Despite a 12th minute goal from Alex Moreira, the first half was as finely poised as such a battle of styles held in prospect.

Moreira was the beneficiary of a perfectly flighted Marcus Stergiopoulos far-post cross from the left which carried the Falcons' central defenders to land at his feet inside the six yard box.

Moreira controlled, then struck home.

Neither side managed consistent or flowing moves as both midfields denied each other time and space on the ball.

Falcons could have levelled the scoreline in the 28th minute but for two desperate goal-line clearances from Marko Perinovic efforts close-in, and when the ball finally broke free, it fell to Brian MacNichol whose shot scraped the bar.

Perinovic's header just eight minutes later went narrowly over.

Carlton too had chances, with one of the most likely when Marco Bresciano - in his fourth game in a week - ran onto a through ball only to find Falcons' goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjovic bravely down to save at his feet.

Although the match had been keenly contested, and by that stage four cautions had been issued by referee Brett Hugo, none was really for malicious play.

Stergiopoulos, and Mark Atkinson had seen yellow for Carlton, and Manny Gotis and Andy Vargas for Gippsland.

**CARLTON 3 (MOREIRA 3)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0**
Venue: Optus Oval
Man of the Match: Alex Moreira CARL

But it was two yellows flashed by Hugo in short succession in first-half added time that was to prove the undoing of Falcons.

Clayton Bell made one rash tackle too many for the first caution, then two minutes later was to do it again.

Falcons was therefore required to play the full second half a player short.

Although subsequently critical of the official's performance in general terms, Falcons coach Stuart

ond.

Tricarico had three good chances within ten minutes of the restart, but the combination of a lively Jevdjovic, and on one occasion a Michael Anderson goal-line clearance, kept him out.

Moreira had gone a little quiet as his teammates had taken the centre-stage, but after 67 minutes he found himself facing only Jevdjovic inside the penalty area but the big

keeper managed to touch the shot away for

Carlton goal eventually came, and from a 72nd minute incident that will be the cause of some reflection by Jevdjovic.

Rob Markovac - who had come on for Atkinson just before half-time - crossed in from the right to where Moreira stood at the far post.

Moreira and Jevdjovic both went up for the ball and it seemed Jevdjovic had claimed it.

In the challenge, it fell from his hands to where Moreira could

a challenge.

There was now no realistic way back for Falcons and the match was put completely out of reach when stand-in captain Sean Douglas, pressing forward eight minutes from time, chipped a ball to Moreira who calmly controlled the ball before netting for his hat-trick.

At the post-match press conference, Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said this scoring form is what Carlton had expected to see from Moreira and that with each game Moreira is getting better.

A late flurry of action came from Falcons.

In the 88th minute Robbie Puca's cross was well met by MacNichol but MacNichol's header flew over.

And on a day which was the first anniversary of Australia's infamous 2-2 World Cup qualifying game, Willie Hastie managed to bring back memories of a controversial incident from the 1966 World Cup Final.

Hastie's stoppage-time shot from the edge of the penalty area crashed down off the bar onto the goal-line before rebounding clear.

The assistant referee disallowed the claims for a goal and got it right, unlike the assistant referee who got it so badly wrong all those years ago.

Munro did not select Archie Thompson and said Thompson was still new to the league, is a young player as well, and needed to be used as an impact player.

He operated at a level higher than many players, and needed a chance to recover, rather than be played week after week, Munro said.



Marko Perinovic - denied

Munro had no complaint about Bell's dismissal.

Joe Tricarico and Andy Vlahos had made some exciting runs in the first half, and found greater space in which to operate in the sec-

a corner.

It was looking as if these missed opportunities would be costly, and that this was as heartening to Falcons as it was dispiriting to Carlton.

But the vital second

more easily reach it and prod it over the line.

Speaking after the game, Falcons coach Munro said that he expected that his keeper should be able to hold a ball even under such

LINE-UPS

Northern Spirit 1 Brisbane Strikers 1

SPRT: Henderson, Enes, Rudan, Casserly, Bosnar (Moss 69), Bilokapic, Slater, Watkins (Arnold 75), Langdon, Marusic, Zane
BRIS: Bolton, Gwynne, Bell, Zoricich, Laybutt, Harper, S Cranney, Knipe (Kolpak 63), Hews, Harris, Meredith
Referee: G Connolly

Carlton 3 Gippsland Falcons 0

CARL: Cagalj, Sean Douglas, Anthopoulos, D Cervinski (D Grbac 84), Stergiopoulos, Atkinson (Markovac 43), Bresciano, Lapsansky, Vlahos, Tricarico (Josifovski 79), Moriera
GIPS: Jevdjovic, Anderson, Gotis, Savage (Canosa 83), Bell, Vargas, Hastie, MacNicol, Puca, Hutchinson (Mitroulas 77), Perinovic (Diorio 64)
Referee: B Hugo

Melbourne Knights 0 South Melbourne 1

MELK: Joe Didulica, Kovacevic, Banini, Vukadin, Jolic, Sevin (Kiratzoglou 73), Reda, T Pondeljak (Kutlesovski 68, Susa, Kelic, Hrvoje SMEL: M Petkovic, Iosifidis, de Amicis, Orlic, Clarkson, Coveny (Curcija 86), Trimboli, Baser, Polak, Lozanovski (Goutzioulis 76), Tsekis (J Anastasiadis 63)

Adelaide City 3 Sydney United 2

ADLC: Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Mennillo (Yates 85), Costanzo, Hassell, Terminello (Stam 90), Kim
SUTD: Crews, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Caleta, Ardane, Burns, Bennett, Sterjovski (Griffiths 13), Townsend (Eagleton 46)
Referee: M Shield

Wollongong Wolves 4 Canberra Cosmos 2

WOLL: Pogliacomini, G Souris, Ceccoli, Stanton (Huxley 45), Sinozic, Horsley, Brooks (Petrovski 45), Surjan, Salapasidis (Masi 74), Chipperfield, Reid
CANB: Knezevic, T Popovich, Burt, Wilson, Marcina, Magnacca, Buljan, Miglietti, Prenzowski (Langone 76), Musitano, Kelly
Referee: P Mur

Perth Glory 2 Adelaide Sharks 1

PRTH: Milosevic, Kalogeracos (Garcia 58), Miller, Buljubasic (Harnwell 38), Wilkinson (John Carbone 74), Hay, G Nave, Strudwick, Markovski, Despotovski, T Halpin
ADSH: Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Souris, Kokkinoplitis, Milosevic (Tibaldi 80), Thorp (Artone 80), Poimer, Duric, Pezos (Porter 68), Gibson
Referee: J Blaney

Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle Breakers 1

SOLY: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekis, Tome (N Carle 39 (L Carle 68), Culina (Baillie 75), Cardozo, Emerton, Brennan, Augerinos, Juric, Durakovic
NEWC: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts (Owens 58), McManus, Sprod (Tancheski 33 (Yoon 68), Ritchie, Wilson, Byuonavoglia, Umlil, Wiecezorek, Shannon
Referee: J Tippet





NORTHMEAD SIGNS SCOREBOARD



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

Wednesday 25 November
Australia 0 China 1

Friday 27 November
Australia 3 China 3

ERICSSON CUP ROUND 8

Friday 27 November
Northern Spirit 1 Brisbane Strikers 1
Mausic Hews

Sunday 28 November
Carlton 3 Gippsland Falcons 0
Moriera 3

Melbourne Knights 0 South Melbourne 1
Lozanovski

Adelaide City 3 Sydney United 2
Mori Caleta
Hassell Griffiths
Kim

Wollongong 4 Canberra Cosmos 2
Horsley Buljan
Chipperfield Magnacca
Petrovski
Masi

Perth Glory 2 Adelaide Sharks 1
Markovski 2 Porter

Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle Breakers 1
Cardozo 2 Umlil

Marconi Fairfield: Bye

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division Round 8

Northern Spirit 1 QAS 0
AIS 2 Northern Spirit Colts 0
Sydney United Colts 3 Wolves Colts 0
NSWIS 2 Olympic Academy 0
Newcastle 3 Sydney Olympic 0
Sydney United 4 Marconi Fairfield Colts 0
Wollongong Wolves ACTAS (7.15 pm kick-off)
Marconi Fairfield bye

Southern Division

Gippsland 2 Albury Wodonga 1
VIS 2 Carlton 1
Melbourne Knights South Melbourne (LKO)
Bulleen Inter 1 bye.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 1 Newcastle Breaker | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 12 |
| 2 Queensland Academy | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 10 |
| 3 Northern Spirit | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 Marconi Fairfield | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 7 |
| 5 Sydney Olympic | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 AIS | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 Spirit Colts | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| 8 Sydney United | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| 9 Wollongong Wolves | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 Marconi Colts | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 11 ACT Academy | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 3 |
| 12 Sydney Olympic Acad | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| 13 Wollongong Colts | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| 14 NSW Institute | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 Sydney United Colts | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 0 |

Southern Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 Victorian Institute | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 Bulleen Inter | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 South Melbourne | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 Carlton | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 Melbourne Knights | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 Gippsland Falcons | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 1 Perth Glory | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 22 |
| 2 Marconi Fairfield | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 16 |
| 3 South Melbourne | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 14 | 14 |
| 4 Carlton | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 10 | 13 |
| 5 Adelaide City | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 8 | 13 |
| 6 Sydney Olympic | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| 7 Sydney United | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| 8 Adelaide Sharks | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 10 |
| 9 Northern Spirit | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 10 |
| 10 Brisbane Strikers | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 9 |
| 11 Gippsland Falcons | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 12 Wollongong City | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 8 |
| 13 Melbourne Knights | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 6 |
| 14 Newcastle Breakers | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 4 |
| 15 Canberra Cosmos | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 27 | 0 |

**INSIDE SOCCER: Australia's weekly soccer Bible
NOW OUT EVERY TUESDAY**

LEADING SCORERS

5 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
5 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
5 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
5 Damian MORI (ADL)
5 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
4 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
4 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
4 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
3 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
3 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
3 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
3 Michael CURCJA (SMEL)
3 John GIBSON (ADSH)
3 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
2 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
2 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
2 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
2 Harry CARL (MELK)
2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)

2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
2 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
2 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)
2 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
2 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
2 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
2 Pan KIM (MARC)
2 Lubo LAPANSKY (CARL)
2 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
2 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
2 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
2 Archie THOMPSON (GIPS)
2 Norman TOME (SOLY)
2 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
2 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
1 John BUONAVOGIA (NEWC)
1 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
1 Nick CARLE (OLY)
1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
1 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
1 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)

1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
1 Brett EMMERTON (SOLY)
1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
1 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)
1 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
1 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
1 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
1 Harry JAMES (CANB)
1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
1 Esala MASI (WOLL)
1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
1 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
1 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
1 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
1 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
1 Zelko SUSA (MELK)
1 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
1 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)

1 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
1 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
1 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
1 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
1 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)



| 1998/99 National Soccer League | ADLC | ADSH | BRIS | CANB | CARL | GIPS | MARC | MELK | NEWC | SPRT | PRTH | SMEL | SYDO | SUTD | WOLL |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| ADELAIDE CITY | | | | | | | | 3-0 | | 2-0 | 0-1 | | | 3-2 | |
| ADELAIDE SHARKS | | | | | | | | | 3-1 | | | 1-1 | 4-1 | | |
| BRISBANE STRIKERS | 1-0 | | | | 1-0 | | 3-2 | | | | 2-2 | | | | |
| CANBERRA COSMOS | | 1-3 | | | | | 1-2 | 0-2* | | | 1-5* | | | | |
| CARLTON | 4-1 | | | 3-0 | | 3-0 | | | | 1-2 | | | | | 4-0 |
| GIPPSLAND FALCONS | 1-0 | | | | | | 0-0 | | | | 0-3 | | | | |
| MARCONI FAIRFIELD | | 4-0 | | 2-0 | | | | | | | | 5-3 | | 2-0 | |
| MELBOURNE KNIGHTS | | | 3-2 | | | | | | | | | 0-1 | | 0-1 | 1-2 |
| NEWCASTLE BRKRS | | | | 2-1 | | 1-2 | 1-2 | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SPIRIT | | | 1-1 | | | | | 2-1 | | | | | 0-2 | | 1-0 |
| PERTH GLORY | | 2-1 | | | | | | | | 2-0 | | 2-1 | | 3-1 | |
| SOUTH MELBOURNE | | | | | 4-4 | 2-1 | | | 2-0 | | | | 3-1 | | |
| SYDNEY OLYMPIC | | | 2-1 | 5-0 | | 0-0 | | | 2-1 | | | | | | |
| SYDNEY UNITED | | | | | 2-1 | | | | 1-1 | | | | 4-1 | | 2-1 |
| WOLLONGONG CITY | 1-1 | | 1-1 | 4-2 | | | | | | | | | | | |



NORTHMEAD SIGNS SCOREBOARD



ERICSSON CUP: ROUND 9 (4-7 December 1998)

Friday 04 December

Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory

7.30pm

Form:

AWAY

Prediction:

1-3

Saturday 05 December

Gippsland Falcons v Melbourne Knights

7.00pm

HOME

1-0

Sunday 06 December

Marconi Fairfield v Sydney Olympic

5.00pm

DRAW

2-2

South Melbourne v Wollongong Wolves

6.00pm

HOME

3-1

Adelaide Sharks v Carlton

7.00pm

HOME

1-0

Sydney United v Northern Spirit

5.00pm

DRAW

1-1

Monday 07 December

Canberra Cosmos v Adelaide City

7.00pm

AWAY

0-1

BYE: Brisbane Strikers

* Match times correct at time of going to press - check with clubs or ASF for late changes

LAST FIVE HOMES (league games)

Newcastle Breakers

D L W W D

Gippsland Falcons

L D W W D

Marconi Fairfield

W W W W W

South Melbourne

D W W W L

Adelaide Sharks

W W D W L

Sydney United

W W W D D

Canberra Cosmos

L L L D L

LAST FIVE AWAYS (league games)

Perth Glory

W D W W L

Melbourne Knights

L L D L W

Sydney Olympic

L L L W L

Wollongong Wolves

L L W L W

Carlton

D L L W W

Northern Spirit

L W L

Adelaide City

W D L L L


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TOCAI FRIULANO





FEEL

THE

POWER

NOVELL
CANBERRA
COSMOS
v
ADELAIDE CITY

Bruce Stadium
Monday 7 December
Kick Off 7.00pm

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR: NOVELL